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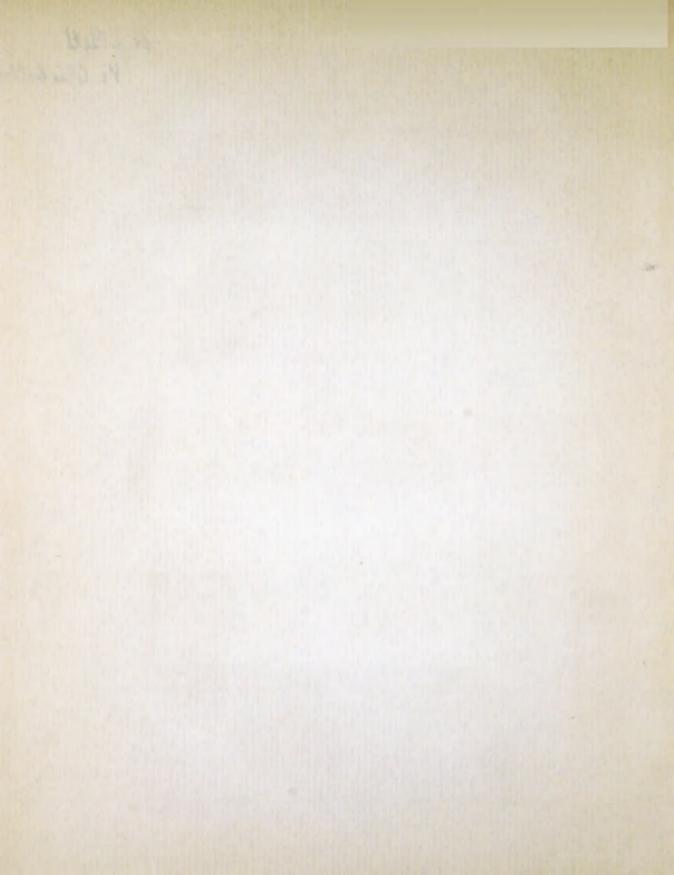
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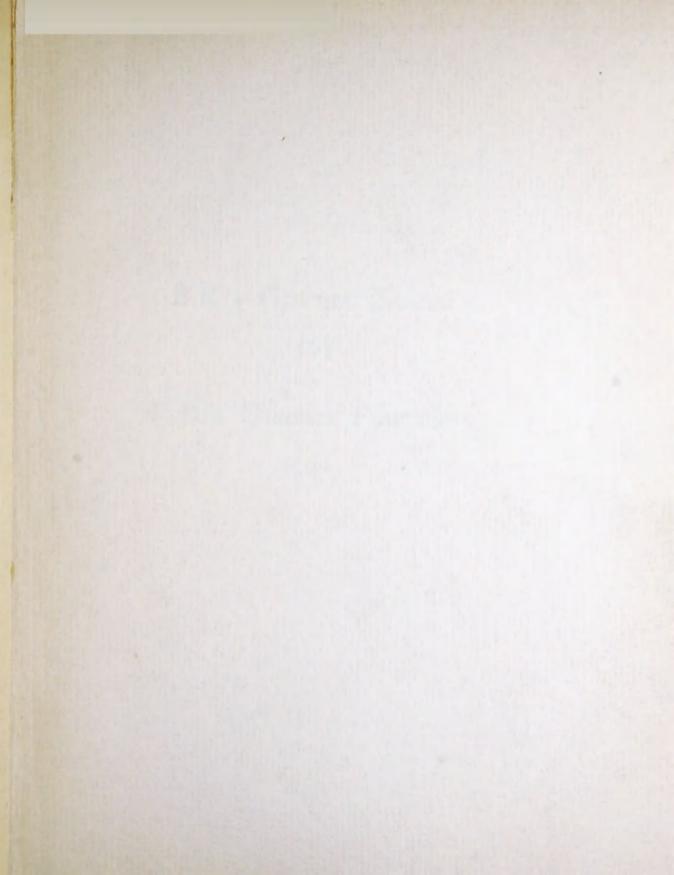
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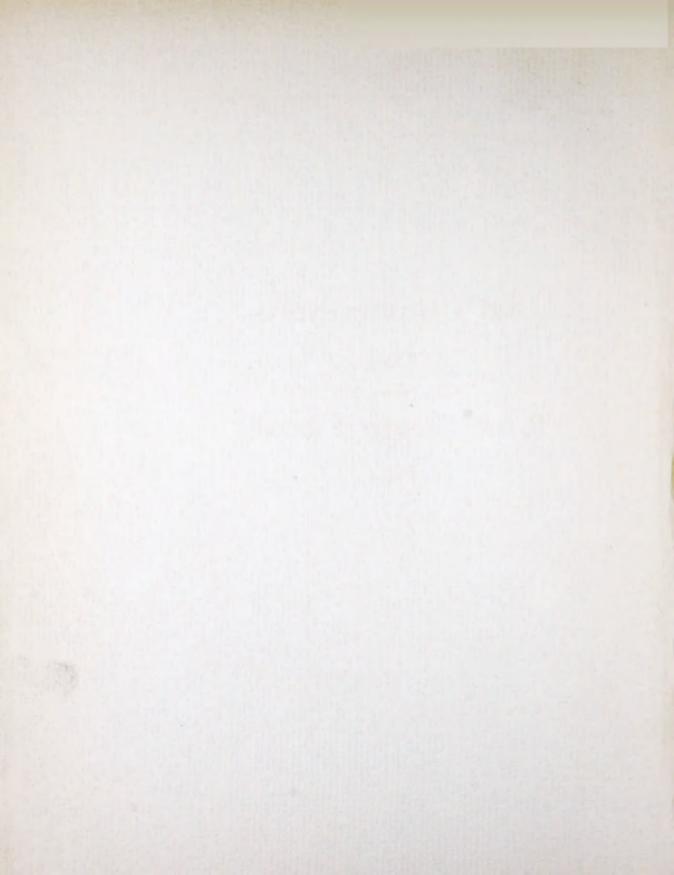
by

A.J. Bell

A. J. Bell Victoria 6







B.R.'s Greenes Newes

1593

R.B.'s Greenes Funeralls

I 594

B. R. - R. B.

Greenes Newes both from Heauen and Hell

1593

and

Greenes Funeralls
1594

Reprinted from the original editions with Notes, &c., by

R. B. McKerrow

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REF. & REN

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

THE two tracts here reprinted are not otherwise connected than by the fact that they are both concerned with Robert Greene, for Collier's conjecture that Greene's Funerals as well as Greene's News from Heaven and Hell was the work of Barnabe Rich 1 seems to merit little attention. Both tracts are very rare—so far as I am aware neither has been reprinted since its original publication 2-and it seemed a pity that they, almost alone of the related pamphlet literature, should remain inaccessible to the vast majority of students. The first, at least, is by no means without merit. While it is indeed somewhat of a patchwork, and hardly fulfils the promise of its title, the story of the fraud on a mercer is decidedly well told, as is also the older and coarser jest of the miller. For Greene's Funerals less can be said, and it must be confessed that the pamphlet is almost entirely without literary value, but it seems worth notice as being, apart from the writings of Nashe, almost the only attempt in defence of Greene. It has also the merit of brevity.

The tracts are reproduced page for page and line for line.³ The ornaments used are similar to those of the originals, but certain accidental irregularities have not been followed. The printer of Greene's Funerals seems to have been quite indifferent to whether the characters composing the borders at head and foot of his pages were the right way up or not.

I have given a list of Irregularities and Doubtful Readings, and a very few notes will be found at the end of the book. The language

¹ Bibliographical Account, i. xvii*.

It is true that in his Bibliographia Poetica, 1802, pp. 124-5, Ritson speaks of a 1604 edition of Greene's Funerals, but it seems probable that the date is merely an error.

I have, however, used the blank leaf, H 4, of the first tract for a half-title to the second.

of Greene's News is of some interest, and I have therefore included a number of words and phrases in the index. Nares seems the only lexicographer to have made use of the work.

1. Greene's News from Heaven and Hell

This tract was entered in the Stationers' Register on February 3, 1592-3, as follows:

Thomas Adams Entred for his Copie vnder the hande of master Styrrop, war-John Oxenbridge/ den. Greenes newes bothe from Heaven and Hell. &c. vjd S.¹

It bears no printer's name, and the device upon the title-page, a landscape surrounded by a circular band bearing the words 'MAR-CANTIA REALE', is not otherwise known to me. Neither Adams nor Oxenbridge seems ever to have engaged in printing.

The initials B. R. on the title-page are generally supposed to stand for Barnabe Rich, and though we cannot regard this as absolutely certain, all the available evidence seems to point to its being correct. Among other things, the following appear to favour Rich's authorship of the work:

- 1. The references to Ireland, as in the Dedication and on page 57. Rich served in that country from 1573 to the time of his death (1617), though he seems to have paid occasional visits to London and to the Netherlands.
- 2. The strongly anti-Roman tone of the whole book, which is exactly in accordance with that of Rich's acknowledged writings.
- 3. The reference to the neglect suffered by old soldiers (on pp. 61-2). This was a common subject of complaint with Rich, though indeed there seem to be few, if any, soldier authors of the day who have not something to say on the point.
- 4. Of the various editions of Rich's works at least ten, dating from 1592 to 1616 were printed for Thomas Adams, and two, in 1598 and 1599, for John Oxenbridge.

The work is of great rarity.² There is a copy in the British Museum (C. 40. d. 39), but none in the Bodleian, and only about three others

¹ Arber, Transcript, ii. 626.

In his edition of the *Dramatic Works of Greene* Dyce remarked that he had never seen the book (one-vol. ed., p. 80).

are known to be in existence. It is a quarto of the usual size, the preliminary matter being in roman and italic type, the text of the work in black-letter, with the customary roman for names and italic for Latin phrases. In the present reprint roman type has, for convenience of reading and to save expense, been substituted for black-letter, and in the text italic type has been used for the roman as well as the italic of the original. This does not, however, apply to the title-page, epistle, heading on p. 7 or running title, all of which remain in roman or italic as in the original.

A peculiarity of p. 15 (B. 4) must be mentioned here. In the original, ll. 15-24, 27-35, with the exception of one or two words, most mysteriously appear to be in a different fount of type from that in which the rest of the book is printed. The face of the type is much the same as that used elsewhere, if not identical with it, but the body of the type is distinctly narrower, and, as may be seen in the reprint, the lines hold more than the usual number of letters. I can offer no explanation of the peculiarity. Perhaps something was omitted from these passages, and the printer, happening to have the narrower fount, used it to save overrunning, or perhaps, as was sometimes done, the type was set up at the compositor's own house, and the printer made corrections in a fount which he happened to have at hand.

2. Greene's Funerals

This tract was entered in the Stationers' Register on February 1, 1593-4, as follows:

John Danter ·/· Entred for his Copie vnder thandes of bothe the wardens a booke intituled Greene his funeralles

The identity of the R. B. whose initials appear on the title-page is

¹ In the case of the punctuation, however, I have had to modify this rule and only use italic when the original punctuation is italic or when the punctuation belongs exclusively to a phrase which, being roman in the original, has been altered to italic in the reprint. The reason for this is that in the original most brackets and all semi-colons used to punctuate the black-letter, as well as many colons, are roman. It would have given a needlessly odd appearance to the text to represent all these by italic.

² Arber, Transcript, ii. 644.

uncertain. By Ritson it was stated that the author of the work was 'supposed' to be Richard Barnfield, who seems indeed to be the only known writer of the day with these initials to whom it could reasonably be attributed. There exists, however, a poem by 'R. B. Gent.' entitled Orpheus his Journey to Hell, published in 1595, and the initials also appear in some trifling productions of about 1580.

The correctness of this attribution to Barnfield is very generally disputed. Dyce in the Introduction to his edition of the Dramatic Works of Greene 2 doubts whether the work is not too poor to be Barnfield's, and Collier, in his History of English Dramatic Poetry, 1831, iii. 147, states that it is certainly unworthy of him. In his Bibliographical Account of the Rarest Books, i. xvii*, he suggests that R. B. stood for Barnabe Rich.

It may, I think, at once be said that if Greene's News from Heaven and Hell is rightly attributed to Rich, Greene's Funerals cannot possibly be his. The attitude taken towards Greene in the two tracts seems to be far too different for them to be the work of the same author. Further, had Rich been a friend and defender of Greene we should not have expected another friend and defender, Thomas Nashe, to refer to him in such a contemptuous way as he does in his Have with you to Saffron-Walden. A last argument, perhaps of slight importance, may be derived from the presence at the end of Greene's Funerals of two sets of verses by Richard Stanyhurst. Rich. who was a sturdy Protestant, had met Stanyhurst, a Catholic, at Antwerp, apparently some time between 1582 and 1592, and seems to have conceived a violent animosity against him, to which he gives expression in more than one of his works. It is, however, but fair to say that we do not know that Rich's dislike of Stanyhurst dates from their first meeting, and further, that it is not certain that the two pieces in question were added to the book at R. B.'s desire. They have no connexion with what goes before, and may well have been inserted by the printer to fill a couple of blank pages. Indeed, the idea of Greene solacing his last moments by reciting Stanyhurst's English hexameters has about it a certain grotesqueness which makes one hesitate to attribute it to a serious admirer.

¹ Bibliographia Poetica, 1802, pp. 124-5.

² One-vol. ed., p. 39.

The evidence for Barnfield's authorship consists chiefly in the initials, but there is one other slight point in favour of attributing the book to him, namely, the great similarity between the English hexameters of sonnet vii and the verses in the same meter entitled 'Helen's Rape' at the end of the Affectionate Shepherd, 1594, which Barnfield acknowledges to be his. For the rest, it must be remembered that if the work is indeed Barnfield's it is probably earlier in date than anything else of his which we have, and that as he was born in June 1574, he would only have been in his nineteenth or at most twentieth year at the time of writing it. There seems little evidence to be derived from the style, but it is worth noticing that twice in these few poems the rhetorical figure of anaphora is used (p. 72, ll. 1-4, and p. 81, ll. 1-4), a figure of which Barnfield seems to have been particularly fond.¹

The objections against the attribution of the work to Barnfield are firstly, the existence of the other work by R. B., namely, Orpheus his Journey to Hell, 1595, which no one seems ever to have imagined to be his, and secondly the preface to Barnfield's Cynthia, 1595, where he speaks of that work as his 'second fruites', and refers to the Affectionate Shepherd as the first, 'howsoeuer undeseruedly (I protest) I have beene thought (of some) to have beene the authour of two Books heretofore.' These are undoubtedly strong objections, and certainly seem of more force than the arguments on the opposite side, but yet I am not sure that Barnfield's disclaimer of the authorship of other works than the two above mentioned excludes the possibility of the 'R. B.' of Greene's Funerals having been intended by the publisher to stand for his name, and there being really something of his in the work. Danter, in his preface, says that the verses were published without the author's knowledge. May he not have got hold

¹ Compare his *Poems*, ed. Arber, pp. 20, st. 5; 28, st. 5; 31, st. 5; 33, st. 3; and often.

Poems, ed. Arber, p. 44. Attention seems first to have been called to this by Collier in his Hist. Eng. Dr. Poetry, 1831, i. xxviii. There is some doubt as to the identity of the two books which Barnfield disclaims. Greene's Funerals may well have been one, but Orpheus his Journey to Hell can hardly have been the other, for, as Mr. Arber points out (Poems, p. xx), that work was not entered in the Stationers' Register until six months later than Cynthia.

of one or two unfinished pieces of Barnfield's 1 never intended for publication, and eked them out by the addition of a few fragments of rubbish written by some one whom he had about the place, or even by himself? If this were the case Barnfield could hardly be blamed for attempting to dissociate himself altogether from the pamphlet, which was indeed a credit to no one concerned.

The book is extremely rare, and the only copy of which I have been able to hear is the one in the Bodleian Library (Tanner 217), from which the present reprint has been made.

It is clear that Barnfield must have been beginning to get some reputation in literary circles, for otherwise he would not have been troubled by any one attributing to him the books—whatever they were—which he disclaims in his Cynthia.

LIST OF

IRREGULARITIES, DOUBTFUL READINGS, ETC.

In 'Greene's Funerals' I ignore the very numerous cases of a roman letter used for an italic and vice versa, as well as most of the irregularities of punctuation.

1. 11 Anno. Domini.

5. 16 hearing Mark after this word, probably merely dirt.

6.1)] Italic brackets are throughout frequently used for roman.

I do not note these.

7. 7-8 con-ciets,

8 quarter

8. 31 Tormoyle] May possibly be Toimoyle.

9. 12-13 fome-time

37 quyetly, trauelling

11. 13 geneeofitie 13. 38 Courteons

14. 15 company] Mark, probably dirt.

15. 15-35] On these lines see Introductory Note, p. vii.

16. 21-2 continue the

34 be foole

17. 10-11 frau-delent

19. 6 bestowed

19. 35 a truth,

22. 33 Cornation

23. 6 told

24. 8 withall

25. 19 by

21 your selfe] Possibly hyphened.

32 a long

37 tell;] Possibly a comma.

26. 23 other Mark, probably dirt.

27. 28 doo vie 28. 4 her?

29. 6 you faide

14 foorfooth?

22 Sub intelegitur,] Space a little doubtful.

30. 7 Camber

21 Church-] Hyphen a little doubtful.

31. 17 you:] Possibly a semicolon.

32. 6 a sunder:

33. 9 foorth. The

12 scooling

34. 34 victuales And

36. 14 quintinfence 19 altogether,

38. 16-17 ouer passed

39. 28-9 not not

40. 4 Possibly attempted

19 Possibly were

22 well-lyking] Hyphen rather doubtful.

41. 18 you you

37 whith

43. 36 firisled

44. 5 condnet 5 lytttle

6 ill fauoured Possibly hyphened.

45. 27 good; But

36 precpts

48. 3 furnished

50. 14 to,

51. 22 there,

55. 8 Possibly shewany

35-6 Trasubstantiation

56 h.l. Green es

58. 23 fong.] Possibly comma.

60. 17-18 the the

23 practifes; Then

29 any]? read my

62. 18 ment

71. 10 floent

List of Doubtful Readings.

73. 6 friendy
14 morralize,

74. 10 Lords: The L is of a smaller fount.

11 Gallant,

76. 13 The edge of the paper is torn off, and of the I of It only a trace remains,

77. 17 consumde.

18 presumde

79. 14 in ueigh

18 miudes

22 wrtten

80. II an

81 Sonnet, IX.] The X is of a smaller fount and has dropped.

82. 9 neuerbut

83. 13 XI.] The stop has dropped a line.

85. 6 Pudddle

II the

86. 5 relinguish,

6 precpts

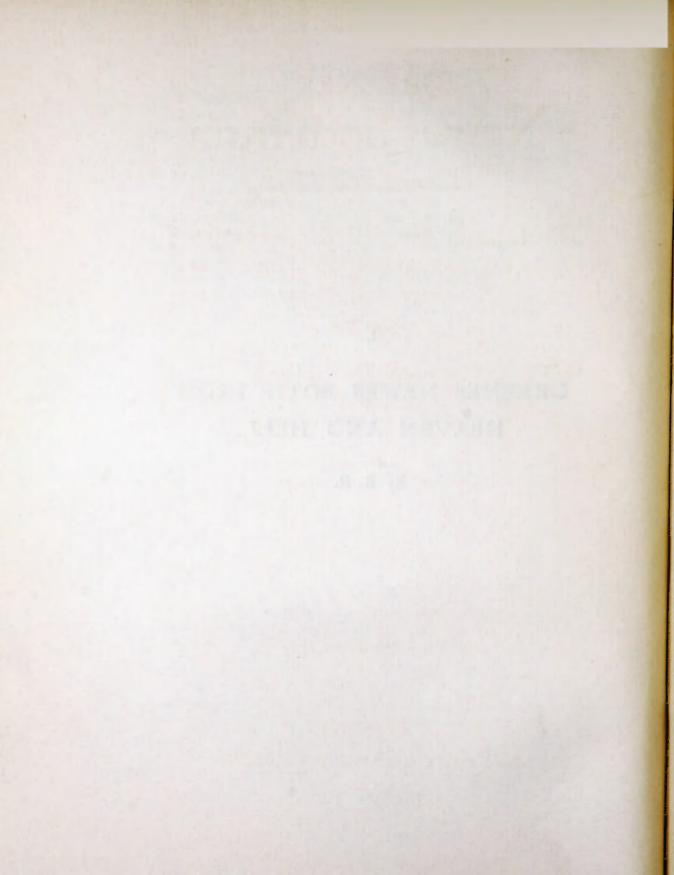
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87. 15 participiates,

I.

GREENES NEWES BOTH FROM HEAVEN AND HELL.

By B. R.



REENES Newes both from

Heauen and Hell.

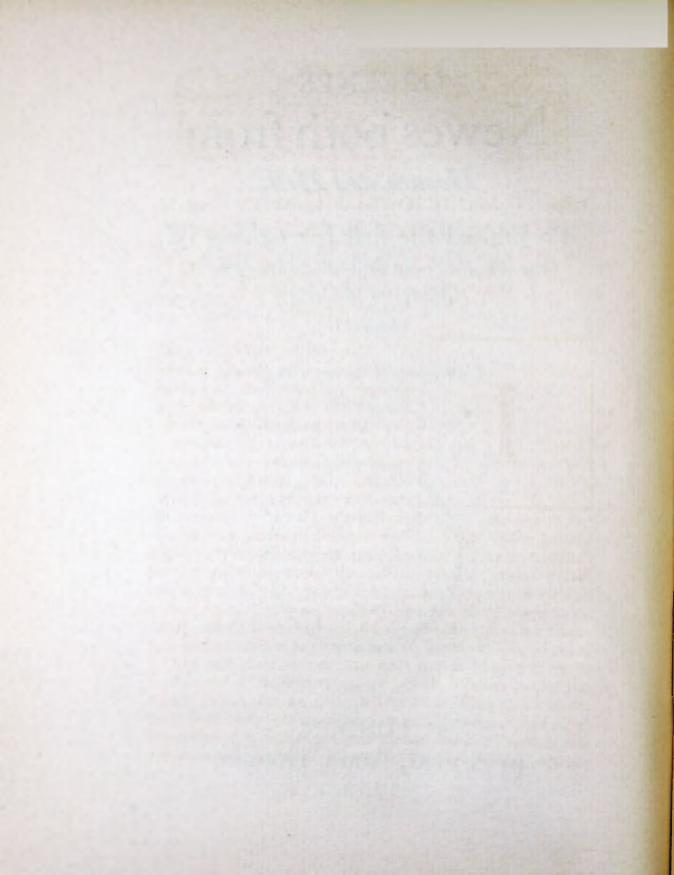
Prohibited the first for writing of Bookes, and banished out of the last for displaying of Conny-catchers.

Commended to the Presse By B. R.



AT LONDON,
Printed, Anno. Domini.

1 5 9 3.





To the renowned Gregory Coolle, chiefe Burgermaister of the Castle of Clonarde, Marquesse of merry conceits, and Grande Caualier amongst Boune companions and all good fellowship; At his chaste Chamber at Dublyne in Irelande, B. R. fendeth greeting.

5

10

T was my fortune (Sir) not long fince, to trauaile between Pancredge Church 8 Pye-corner, beeing somewhat late in the Euening, about an houre after the fetting of the Sunne: and casting vp mine eyes towardes the skyes, to beholde the twinckling that had then but newly discoue-

15 red themselues, I might see how the Man of the Moone was beating of his dogge. Thys fearefull aspect did wonderfullie daunt mee, with doubt of some angry accident that might shortly betide me; And I had not paced many steppes, but 20 directly in the path before me, there appeared a most grissie ghost wrapt vp in a sheete, his face onely discouered, with a penne vnder his eare, and holding a scrowle of written paper in his hande. I croffed the way of purpose to shunne him, but crosse as I could he was euer-more before mee, that passe I 25 might not, vnlesse I should runne ouer him; I remembred my felfe how old Fathers were wont to fay, that Spirits in fuch cases, had no power to speake to any man, vntill they were first spoken vnto, and therefore taking vnto me a constrained courage, I asked him what he was, & what was his meaning

The Epistle.

to trouble mee in my passage? who aunswered thus. I am (saide he) a Spirite, yet feare thou nothing, for my comming is not to doe thee any manner of harme, but to request a matter at thy handes which thou maist not denay me, for thou must vnderstand, I am the spirite of Robert Greene, not vn-5 knowne vnto thee (I am sure) by my name, when my wrytings lately priuiledged on euery post, hath giuen notice of my name vnto infinite numbers of people that neuer knewe me by the view of my person.

The matter that I would request thee to performe, is the 10 committing of these papers to the Presse, wherein, because I have there manifested the very drift of mine owne deuise, I may therefore be the more sparing vnto thee, in relating the circumstances: thys may suffise, nor faile not thou to doe as I have willed thee.

Heere-withall, popping the papers into my hand, I can not tell what account I should make of his departure, or whether I might say he slew into the ayre, or sunck into the earth, he was so suddainly vanisht out of my sight, but I was gladde I was ridde of his companie, and home-wards I went hastilie 20 to my lodging: where calling for a light, I began by my selfe to peruse ouer these lynes, wherein I sounde such a messe of altogether, that I knew not what I should make of the medlie.

Spyced it was heere and there with Myflin, a kinde of 25 graine that is made of Knaue and Rye, mixed both together, pleasurable it was in many places to be read, and therefore fittest for melancholie humors. And bethinking mee of my freendes to whom I might commend it, in the end I resolued of your owne good selfe: and the rather sinding it to be delightfull and pleasant, I thought it a fit restorative to recall you from that melancholie conceite, that hath so long pesterd your braines, for the losse of a Myll, dismembred and shaken downe by the rage of a pelting pusse of winde, but such a paultry tempest should not dismay a man of your spyrite, 35 when it is well knowne to every Gamster, that although the knaue of trumpes be the second Carde at Mawe, yet the five-singer

[4]

The Epistle.

five-finger may commaunde both him and all the rest of the pack. I could tel you a tale (Maister Gregory) of an Asse, who leaving the place where he was first foald, fortuned to stray into a strange Forrest, and finding the beastes of that Desart to be but simple, and had never seene the maiestie of the Lyon, neyther had they felt the cruelty of the Tygar, nor had any manner of wayes beene wronged by the oppressions of the Leopard, the Beare, the Panther, or any other devouring or rauening beastes.

Thys paltry Asse, seeing their simple plainnesse, founde meanes to wrap himselfe in a Lyons skinne, and then with proude lookes and lostie countenaunce, raunging among the Heardes, he would stretch out his filthy throate, bellowing and braying (as nature had taught him) with so hideous and

hearing beganne already to tremble & shake for feare. Then he began to tyrannife, commaunding what himselfe pleased amongst them, and not contenting himselfe with that obeyfance, which had beene fit for an honorable beast, and more

20 then was due to an Asse, would many times take vppon him some duties proper to the person of the Lyon himselfe: and in the end became a notable sheepe-byter, worrying and de-uouring whole slockes of poore sheepe, that happened with-

in his precincte or iurisdiction.

The Wolfe that had layne all this while close amongst the Mountaines, and having gotten vnderstanding of the nature and disposition of this Asse, thought him a fit companion for his confortshyppe, and combyned with him in such a freendly league, that betweene them, the one taking opportunity to filtch and steale in the night, the other vsing his tyrany

to rauen and deuoure in the night, the other ving his tyrany to rauen and deuoure in the day, the poore harmelesse Cattle that lived within their reach, were still oppressed, & never free fro perril. The Asse grew to that greatnes that he was surnamed Tarquinus superbus, not that Tarquine that ravished and the still be a poor but it was that Tarquine that ravished a

35 cretia of her honour, but it was that Tarquine that rauished a Church of her lyuings: and an Asse I founde him, and so I

will leaue him.

A 3

Perad-

The Epistle.

Peraduenture (Ma. Gregory) you expected a wifer conclusion, but what would you looke to come from a man that hath beene lately so skarred with sprites, that he hath not yet recoursed the right vse of his sences: it may be true that deuils are assaid to passe by a crosse, but I am sure knaues are 5 not assaide to shroude themselues behinde a Condite. You may perceiue (Syr) my wits are sette a wandering, but knowing your discretion enough to conceiue my meaning, I will trouble you no further, but with this abrupt conclusion will bid you hartily sarewell.

Your affured freend.

B. R.



Greenes newes both from Heauen and Hell.

E not dismaied (my good freends) that a deade man shoulde acquaint you with newes, for it is I, I per se I, Robert Greene, in Artibus Magister, he that was wont to solicite your mindes with many pleafant conciets, & to fit your fancies at y least euery quarter of the yere, with strange & quaint deuises, best beseeming the season, and to most answerable to your pleasures. Having therfore so many times taken the true measure of your appetites, & finding the very height of your dispositions inclined to nouelties, that you might the rather see howe willing I am to satisfie your humors, I have fent you heere the whole discourse of my ad-15 uentures, what hath betyde mee fince I left the terrestiall worlde, with a very true report of my infernall trauailes. Strange peraduenture for you to vnderstand of, but for the truth of the matter, if you shall any where stand in doubt, doo but compare the place with that golden volume of Legenda 20 Aurea, or with the workes of that famed wife man Syr Thomas More, in his Booke of Quoth I to your freend, and quoth your freend to me, in his discourse of Eutopia, & The supplication of soules in Purgatory. If your conscience be yet scrupeld, and that these authentike authorities will not 25 fully satisfie you: turne ouer then to the Remish Testament, and leaving the Chapters and wordes of the Euangelistes, looke into the notes inferted by that holy fraternitie of Iefuites, and that bleffed broode of Seminaries, and tel me then if you do not find matter feeming more incredible the any by 30 me here alleaged, and yet I dare boldly auouch it, (and that without blushing) if you consider duly of the circumstances,

Greenes newes

you shall finde no lesse cause to laugh at the one, then to beleeue the other. Hauing thus prepared your mindes to receiue the certaintie of my discourse, now likewise sette open your eares, and be attentiue to the rest, for thus it foloweth.

When pittiles Death had fommoned my foule to leave his 5 transitory estate, infusing his frosty humour through all the parts of my body, leaving my breathles corps a fitte pray for the fepulcher, my deceased ghost wandring now to and fro in many obscure & vnknown waies, desirous to find a place of rest, at the length lighted into a straight and narrow tract, so 10 ouergrowne with bryers & brambles, that there was almost no passage left, and as it should seeme vnto me, did lead vnto fome ruinated place, where all former trade & traffique was decayed, the folitarines wherof (me thought) was best besitting & answerable to my humor: so that with great difficulty 15 fcratching through the bushes, it brought me at the length to the foote of a mighty steepe Hil, whose height I was not able to discerne, but by the vnpleasantnes of y path, leading ouer monstrous Rocks craggy & ill fauoured to passe, I perceived it to be the high way to Heauen. But should I tel you heere 20 the toile y I had to climbe this Mountaine, with what labor I attained it, how many breathings I tooke by the way before I could reach it, what folly I found in my felfe to vndertake it, and should I discribe vnto you at large howe many inconveniences they finde that undertakes thys passage to 25 Heauen, peraduenture I might fo discourage you, that a great number would neuer defire to come there at all, but thys I can affure you for your better comforts, he that hath a willing minde to vndertake thys trauaile, let hym bring with hym a pottle of that lyquour, which I was wont to 30 drinke with my Hostesse, at the Redde lattesse in Tormoyle streete, and hee shall finde it more available in the furthering of hys iourney, then a whole poke full of the Popes pardons.

When I was gotten vp to the toppe of the Hill, after 35 that I had a little panted for breath, looking forwarde ouer a fayre greene, (as my high way did direct mee) I myght

perceiue

both from Heauen and Hell.

perceiue (a little distant from mee) where two were fast together by the eares: weapons they had none, more than their bare fiftes, but with them they laide on fuch load, that I perceived the one was loath to remayne in the others debt; 5 and I somewhat mending my pace, when I was come vnto them, presently knew them both to be of mine olde acquaintaunce, the one Veluet breeches, the other Cloth breeches, betweene whom I had (not long before) beene a stickler, and (as I supposed) had taken a quyet order betweene them for 10 ending of all controuersies. But they neuer the more vppon my ariual forbare the one the other, but sometimes with downe-right blowes, enough to have feld a Bullocke: sometime with bobbes at the lippes, able to have dasht out theyr teeth: otherwhiles lugging one an other by the eares, as if 15 they had committed some offence in listning too lightly after foolish speeches: but Veluet breeches being in the French fashion, with a goodly locke hanging downe his left cheeke, wherin Cloth breeches had fo fnarled his fingers, that when I thrust in betweene them to have parted them, I could not 20 pluck away his hand, tyll he had pluckt away hayre and all that he had holde on: but having once put them a funder, I wild them as they were men to hold their hands, why (qd. I) doo you know what you doo, or doo you remember the place where you are? I am fure wee be not farre from Heauen 25 gates, and if S. Peter should vnderstand of your abuse, I knowe he would commit you both to the Porters Lodge.

Veluet breeches, who was so farre out of breath that hee was not able to speake, in the end, when he had a while well

bluftred and blowne, deliuered mee these words.

This base fellowe, whom I have ever disdayned, and although in our late controversie, by the inconsideration of a partiall Iurie, he prevayled against me, sentence being given on his side, the which I thinke dooth incourage him the rather in his presumption toward mee, but I ever scorning him, denying him (as he is) vnworthy to converse with a Gentleman of any quallitie or trayning vp: and as I was yerwhiles quyetly, travelling all alone in a solitarie muse,

how

Greenes newes

how I might behaue my selfe when I came to heauen, what falutations I might render to the Saincts, with what grace I might give the Baseles manes to the Monarches and great Princes that had raigned in the world, and what countenance I might carry, best beseeming a Gentleman of my re- 5 putation & calling, newly comming amongst so many strangers of al forts, amongst whom I was altogether vnknown, and had no manner of acquaintance: as I was painfully and with great difficultie trauelling vp the hill, in these & other like cogitations, this barbarous fellow (whose rude training to vp hath better inabled him to indure labour & toile, than those that have lyued in pleasure & ease) was followed hard at my heeles before I was aware of him, which in truth at the first made me halfe afraide, but looking back & feing who it was, my feare was turned into disdaine, and my stomacke mer- 15 uailoufly began to fwell against him: but without any manner of word speaking vnto him I kept my way, the which being so straight (as you know) that there can passe but one at once, I held him behinde me, till I was gotten vp to the very height of the hill, where the passage growing more spacious, 20 he makes no more adoe at the matter, but without any word fpeaking steps afore, & began to hold on his way as though I had beene but his man, and should have waited on him in his iourney, the which my stomacke not able to brooke, I reprooued his malipart faucinesse; he by and by began to grow in- 25 to comparisons, both of my selfe and my petegree, when it is well knowne that Veluet breeches was neuer leffe than a Gentleman, and Cloth breeches neuer more than a Pefant, and that I have ever kept company, where such a vassell as he is might be ashamed to shew his face, and therefore holde 30 it in great scorne, that he should take the way of me, now trauelling to so glorious a presence. Cloth breeches, that stood all this while with his head hanging on the one fide, and byting of his nether lyppe, aunswered him thus.

Veluet breeches, touching thy parentage, from whence 35 thou art descended, what thou maist claime for thy gentilitie, and how thou maintaynest thy brauery, thou knowest hath

beene

both from Heaven and Hell.

beene already fufficiently disputed vppon betweene vs, and by the verdict of a Iury, (whom thou falfly accuseft of inconfiderat partiality) they have pronounced against thee, and decreede on my fide, the which fentence, vntill by a new tryall 5 thou dooft feeke to auerre, thou art not till then able to avoid; I wil not therfore reitterate any matter already handled and fully concluded, but briefly to auniwere thy passed speeches; Thou faydst thou wert halfe afraide when I first ouertooke thee, and I beleue thee, for I perceived by thy blushing, that 10 either thou wast in doubt of a Cunstable, that had followed thee with Hue and crye, or of a Bayliffe, with a writ out of the Kings Bench, that had come to arrest thee: for the geneeofitie thou braggest of, acknowledging thy selfe to be a gentleman, & accounting me for a pefant, I will deale plainly 15 with thee in that: there be some fooles in deede like thy selfe, that doo cal thee Master Veluet breeches, & mee they call goodman Cloth breeches, but looke generally through al the parts of England, and you shall see the goodman Cloth breeches at home keeping good Hospitalitie, when Ma. Veluet breeches 20 fels away his house, or keepes his doores shut and will not be fpoken withall: for the company which thou fayst thou hast kept, wher I might be ashamed to shew my face, I know not wher it shold be, vnlesse in some brothel house, for those be the places where thou most frequentest: wherin thou hast truely 25 spoke, for there in deed I would be much ashamed to be seene.

Veluet breeches would faine have replyed, but that I in-

terrupted him in these words, saying.

My Masters and very good friends both, I perceive you haue not read al my bookes, which I haue purposly put forth 30 for the benefite of my Countrymen, for if you had but seene Greenes farewell to folly, me thinkes the bare tytle, without turning ouer leafe to looke further into the matter, might haue moued you to this confideration, that the very ground of your contention is meere folly and flat foolishnes, the which 35 you should have shaken hands withall, and so to have bid it adieu, taking a faire farewel of a foule ouerfight: and in one other of my bookes, called Greenes groats worth of wit: why, if there were but one peny worth of wit equally distributed B 2

[II]

Greenes newes

betweene you both, you would neuer vse to quarrell, & fal together by the eares as you trauell by the way: blame me not my good Countrymen, though I vse bitter expulsives to expel your groffe errors, you are trauelling I perceiue to a place of bleffed peace & quiet rest, what wold you think to enter with 5 malicious mindes? no, the Porter is circumspect, & can looke narrowly into mens dispositions. You Maister Veluet breeches, you are a Gentleman, and you are brauely futed & gallantly apparrelled, and you peraduenture will looke for preheminence: but doo you think that either your great tytle 10 or gay clothes will any thing at all stand you in steede: no, for S. Peter will first looke into your Scutchine, (for if you be a Gentleman you must shewe your armes, otherwise you will be proued but a counterfeit, and those S. Peter cannot abide) and if there shall be found either in the coate or crest, 15 any bloody or cruell beaft, any rauenous or deuouring foule, or any other marke or token whatfoeuer, whereby it may appeare, that your gentry hath beene aduaunced by rape, by rauen, by bribery, by deceipt, by oppression, by extortion, by vsury, by periury, and to make short, by any manner of fraud 20 and fubtiltie, you are vtterly vndoone, he will locke the gates against you, hee will not suffer you to enter. And you goodman Cloth breeches, peraduenture you vnder your fimple attyre and homely habit, you thinke to find fo much the more fauour: but I can tell you it will not serue the turne, for S. 25 Peter shuts out fortie false knaues in a yeere, that come creeping thether in Fryers coates, and Monkes Coules.

I am now to put you in mind of an other of my Bookes, called Greenes neuer too late: O that you had but read ouer that Booke in time, but nowe it is too late for me to spend 30 such wishes, and more later for you to redresse your former follyes, it resteth then that we agree together like friends, and trauell together like louing Countreymen: let vs not exhibite complaints one against an other, for you shall sinde we shall be charged with matters more than we shall well 35

be able to aunswere.

Truely said Veluet breeches, your wise perswasions hath

both from Heauen and Hell.

fo lenefied my cholloricke passion, that I am contented for this present iourney, to admit of *Cloth breeches* as a companion: neither is it himselfe that I doe so much dispise, but his meane and simple attyre.

And for my part (answered Cloth breeches) I can be contented to passe in friendly maner with Veluet breeches: neyther is it his gay apparrell that I find fault withall, but with

his feuerall and fundry abuses.

Well then (faid I) I hope the greatest part of this quarto rel is at an end for the present, let vs therfore spend no longer
time with any further discoursings, but let vs goe forwards
till wee haue likewise ended our journey: agreede said they,
and forwardes wee went, and within a very small distance
we might perceiue a farre more cleere and radient light, than
to euer before till that present wee had beholden, and immediathy wee might beholde the tops of the heavenly buildings

atly wee might beholde the tops of the heauenly buildings, whose towers and turrets were of such exceeding brightnes, that our eyes dazeled, we were not able directly to looke vpon them, which gaue vs so great comfort, that we mended our

20 pace, tyll at the last we might heare the most sweete and delectable melody, that euer (I thinke) happened to any eares, the harmony not possible to bee descrybed; and by this time we were come hard to heauen gates, which we found shutte and fast locked, and at the least, a hundreth persons walking

25 vp and downe with fad and heauie countenances, conferring now and then by two or three together, making semblance by the shewe of their behauiour, that their mindes were perplexed with some distressed griefe. This spectacle made mee wonderfully to muse, what I might think of the matter, but

3° we three holding still in company, passed too and fro by them, and they lykewise by vs, we knowing none of them, nor they knowing none of vs: at the last meeting with one al alone by himself, whose graue & sober aspects, argued a stayed and discreete mind, and leaving my company for the time, I singled

35 him out, first faluting him with a courteous Conge, the which he as kindly returning me agayne, I began in this

fort to enter parle with him.

B 3 Courteons

Greenes newes

Courteous Syr, if a strangers boldnesse might not breed offence, I would request you to satisfie mee but in this one demaund, I am (as you may perceiue) vnacquainted in this place, having taken a tedious and painfull travell, and being now arrived, would be glad to vnderstand the successe of my 5 iourney, and I have walked too & fro heere this long hower, and in all this space I could never see any one passe either in or out, nor the gate so much as opened, which seemeth strange vnto mee, considering the multitude which doo frequent the place, it makes me iealous, that all should not be well in hea-10

uen, and to growe into fuspition of I know not what.

Truely my good friend (answered this graue sir) it should feeme you have never bin a futer, that wold looke for fo quick a dispatch, you have walked vp and down (you say) heere this hower, and there be heere in this company that have travel-15 led as farre as you, and have walkt vp and downe heere this moneth, peraduenture a yeere, perhaps more, and would bee glad if they might be dispatched yet, within a weeke, a fortnight, or a moneth, yea, if it were fomwhat more, they would be glad even then to come to an end of their futes, you must 20 (Syr) therefore be contented to stay your time, & to take your fortune, and thinke you came hether in a very happy houre, if you be dispatched in a quarter of a yeere. Your news fir (faid I) doth not a little make me wonder, but if without offence I might but deale thus much farther with you, what might be 25 the cause I beseech you, that there is no more regard to y dispatching of poore futers, that have laboured & tyred thefelues many wayes in hope to have heere a speedy release, aswel for y redresse of their sustained wrogs, as also to be rewarded as they shalbe found worthy by defart? for as it is supposed, this 30 is the very place where Iustice & right is most duely administred, & therfore is accounted the only place of comfort: but can there be any greater wrong, than for a man to be fo long deferred from his right? or may there be a more discomfort, than when a man shall neuer hope to haue end of his sutes? 35

My good friend (answered the other againe) although you have said no more than is truth: but yet something for your better satisfaction, your consideration must have some refer-

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rence

both from Heauen and Hell.

rence to y time, for one of y greatest matters that doth hinder the forwarding of sutes at this instant, ouer it hath beene in times past, is this, in briefe to be spoken, the wonderfull affayres of great importance, and the continual busines that 5 S. Peter is dayly troubled withall.

What I pray fir (fayd I) is S. Peter more troubled with

businesse now, than in times past he hath beene?

O fir (faid the other) you neede not doubt of that, & there is great reason for it, that it can not otherwise be, he hath so ma-10 ny affaires to run through, that it is almost thought impossible how he should execute the all: for first, he is Knight Porter heere of heaven gates, a place I warrant you of no lesse charge than trouble: then, he is conflituted the Prince of the Apostles, & confirmed in that authority by all the Popes for 15 this three or four ehundreth yeere, so that altherest of the Apostles can doo nothing without his allowance, and what soeuer he dooth they cannot recall: then, he is the Popes Factor, & hath the handling & determining of all causes for him, and hath lately bin more troubled with his brablements, for the holding vp of S. Peters 20 chayre, than with all the Kings & Princes again in Christendom: fourthly, he is the Master of the Requests, chosen by the papists to present their prayers to God, and they ply him euery day with moe pelting peticions, than his leyfure will permit to looke ouer in amoneth after: these & so many other matters hee hath still to 25 looke into, that if he had fixe able bodies, they were all too little to run through his other affayres.

Why (faide I) this is a pitteous case, that having such infinite busines, as I perceive by your speeches, that he hath not some assistants to helpe him, & that so many troubles should not lye all on

30 one mans necke.

Well (faid he) this is your opinion, you have gyuen your verdit, but have you not learned, Quod fupra nos, nihil ad nos: it is not for you & me to fay what is behoovefull for Saints, they knowe their times & what is necessary, better than you or I can instruct the, & therfore not to be found fault with a linary of their dealings.

These speeches ended, giving him great thankes for his curtesse, I returned againe to my two Companions, Veluet breeches and Cloth breeches, to whom I imparted all my

Greenes newes

newes, which strooke them both into a fuddain dumpe, but especially Cloth breeches, whose trayning vppe had not beene accustomed much to give attendance, but it fell out, the very fame after noone, that our Lady, with the eleauen thousand Virgins, had beene walking in the garden to take 5 the ayre, & in her comming backe, fortuning to looke out at a Casement, she sawe vs altogether as we were walking, and calling to her Gentleman vsher, shee demaunded what wee were. He aunswered, that we were Suters, which there did giue our attendance. Alas poore foules (faid shee) I did per- 10 ceiue in deede by their pittious lookes, that their minds were troubled with forrowe and griefe, and without any other wordes speaking, she departed, and causing all other busines to be for the time fet a part, shee tooke order that all suters 15

should presently be dispatched.

The next morning fomething early, S. Peter came foorth to a place where he vieth to fit for the hearing of causes, for that there is a custome, that if any man doe but once get hys feete within heaven gates, hee is never after thrust out, and therefore hee taketh affured order that none may enter, but 20 fuch as shall be thought worthy for their defarts to continue the place. S. Peter having nowe feated himselfe, order was taken that every futer shoulde successively bee heard, he that had remayned longest to be first called, and so to proceede to the fecond in due course accordingly. I and my two compa- 25 nions were the latest that were there arrived, and therefore the last to be dispatched: the rest were examined by one and one, and that in fuch seuere and straight manner, that amongst euery ten, there were scarce one admitted to haue entrance into heaven, the Articles that were objected against 30 them, were too many in this place to bee rehearfed, but one thing I noted well, which was, there were fome that shewed him the Popes Pasport, sealed with lead vnder his privile Sygnet, but Iesus how S. Peter did be foole them, to shewe him fuch a writing, being not confirmed vnder the handes 35 of the foure Euangelists, he commaunded them presently to auoyde and to come no more in his fight.

Our

Our turnes being now come to fay for our felues, I was the first of the three that was called for: S. Peter demaunded of me what might be my name, and what trade I had vfed. I tolde him my name was Robert Greene, by profession 5 a Scholler, and commenced Maister of Artes. O (quoth S. Peter) I have heard of you, you have beene a busie fellowe with your penne, it was you that writ the Bookes of Conycatching, but firra, could you finde out the base abuses of a company of petty varlets that lived by pilfering cosonages, 10 and could you not as well have discryed the subtill and fraudelent practifes of great Conny-catchers, such as rides vpon footeclothes, and fometime in Coatches, and walkes the ftreetes in long gownes and veluet coates: I am fure you haue beene in Westminster Hall, where you have seene poore 15 Clyants animated to commence actions, and to profecute futes till they have brought themselves to beggery, & when all is spent they are turned off like fooles, and fent home by weeping-croffe. And let me fee now if any of your Crosbyters, your Lyfters, your Nyppers, your Foysters, or any other 20 of the whole rabblement of your Conny-catchers, cal him by what name you lift, be like vnto these, or more mischiuous in a Common-wealth. Then have you couitous Landlords, that dooth daily so exact and cheate of their poore Tennants, that they were better light into the laps of a Cutpurse, then 25 to dwell within the precincts of a Cut-throte. Yet have you a proude kinde of Conny-catchers, that having but a Penner and ynckhorne hanging at his gyrdle, yet creeping into some great mans fauour to become his Clarke or Secretary, by plaine Conny-catching, within very fewe yeeres, will pur-30 chase three or foure hundred pound land a yeere.

Or shoulde I put you in mind of great Conny-catchers, placed in Offices, who are continually building of houses, and still purchasing of reuenewes to leave to theyr heyres, perhaps by deceiving the Prince, or cossoning the Subiect, 35 but how should they compasse so great aboundance, but by

fome practife in Conny-catching: vnlesse they be such which the Prince dooth fauour, of whom she bestoweth many gracious

cious and liberall gyfts: I will not fay there bee Conny-catchers amongst Clergy men, that will catch at a Benefice
sometime before it falles, and nowe and then by Simonie
or other corruption having catched two or three, can be contented likewise to catch their Tythes from their poore flock, 5
but very seldome to feede them, or to catch any of their soules
to the kingdome of heaven. But now my freend take this for
your answer, you that coulde busie your selfe to sable out so
many sollies without indifferency, and to become a wryter
with such partialitie, I must tell you truth, heaven is no habitation for any man that can looke with one eye and wincke
with the other, for there must none rest there that dooth vse
to haulte, but such as be plaine and true dealing people.

I woulde very faine haue replyed in mine owne excuse, but S. Peter cut me off, telling me that I was aunswered, 15 and that hauing mine aunswere, I shoulde trouble him no further. And foorthwith speaking to hym that stood next mee, asked hym his name. Who told hym that he was called Veluet breeches. S. Peter asked hym further, what Countreyman he was. He aunswered an Englishman. I cannot think 20 you to be a naturall Englishman, sayd S. Peter, for that I neuer heard of any of your name in that Country. Yes Syr (if it please you) said Veluet breeches, my auncesters came in with the Conquest, and my predecessours haue still continued Gentlemen both of Worship and credite.

As Veluet breeches had ended these words, there happened to come by, divers Princes that had raigned Kinges of England, all of them mounted vpon great Horsses, and had beene abroade vppon the greene running at the Ring: the which Princes being espyed by S. Peter, he called vnto the, 30 requesting them a little to stay: and then poynting to Veluet breeches, he demaunded if any of them did knowe hym, or any of hys name remaining in Englande, in the tyme of theyr raignes and governments? But they denayed altogether that ever they had seene hym, or ever known any Gen-35 tleman of English byrth that was of his name.

Amongst this royall troupe, was King Henry the thyrd, and

and he confidently protested, \dot{y} in the time of his raigne, there was no such person to be found, for said hee, I sent one of my servants to buy me a payre of hose, and hee returned againe with a payre that was but of sixe shillinges and eyght pence the price: wherewith I being displeased, tolde him that I would have had hym bestowed a marke of a payre, but hee said there were none such to be gotte. But as for the other Cloth breeches that standeth by hym, I know him very well by his lookes, he dooth so much resemble his auncesters, and to hath the very lively picture of his Predecessours, the which were very honest plaine dealing men, without any manner of falshood or deceite.

S. Peter thanked them of their paines, and thus the Princes departed, who beeing gone, S. Peter saide: You have heard Ma. Veluet breeches what hath passed, but yet because you have auouched your selfe to be a Gentleman, you shall have thys favour, we will examine some other of later time, who peraduenture may better call you to remembraunce. There stoode a Messenger by, whom S. Peter willed pre-

20 sently to goe fetch hym some Englishman, that was but of some tenne or twenty yeeres residence in the place, charging hym to goe with speede, and to make a quicke returne. The Messenger met with a company that were newe come out of a Tennis courte, amongst whom was a Mearcer, that

25 within these tenne yeeres had dwelt in Cheapside, hym the Messenger brought to S. Peter, who demaunded of him, if he did know a Gentleman in England, called by the name of Ma. Veluet breeches. Yea marry sayde the Mearcer, I know him to my cost, for thys is he that standes by me, and

30 heere I auouch it before his face that hee is no Gentleman, but a proude dissembler, and a cosoning counterfeite: which if it shal please you to give me leave, I will prove before this holy companie. Saint *Peter* aunswered, we doo not onelie give you leave, but also doe straightly commaunde you to

35 speake a truth, and withall, to speake no more then is truth, what you are able to charge him withall, and howe you are

able to prooue your words.

C 2

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The Mearcer aunswered, it were too much impiety for a man in my case to raise any slander, or maliciously to accuse any man wrongfully: but to the end the trueth of the matter might more euidently appeare, I must craue pardon a little to vse circumstances, and thus it followeth.

About fourteene or fifteene yeeres fince, when I kept a shop in Cheapside, following there my trade, this counterfet Gentleman, being conforted with another of his owne pitch, a byrde of the same feather, although in times past, his onely familiaritie was but with Dukes, Earles, Lordes, and fuch 10 other worthy personages, yet at this day an ordinary companion, and conversant with every skypiacke, and himselfe of base condition and a common Cosoner, his name called Silke stockings. These two copesmates, Veluet breeches and Silke stockings changing theyr names, and because I 15 will not be offensive to other Gentlemen, that peraduenture be of the same name which they then tooke to themselves, I will call Veluet breeches maister White, and Silke stockings, he shall be maister Black, these two counterfeite Gentlemen, maister White and maister Black, prouiding them- 20 felues of Lodgings, Maister White as it might be in Graties streete, in a house where no body knewe him, and Maister Blacke in Fanchurch streete, fast by where he found as little acquaintance. Theyr Lodgings being thus prouided, Maifter White walking into Poules, and feeing many bils fette 25 vp on the West doore by such as wanted Maisters, perusing the bylles, and finding one that he thought might be fitte for his purpose, (and in truth was as cosoning a knaue as hee himselfe) gaue notice vnder the bill, that he shoulde repaire into Graties streete, and at such a signe enquire for Maister 30 White.

The fellow finding his bill subscribed, (and hoping now to light vpon some cheate) made hast the same night, & came to Ma. Whites Chamber: Sir (saith hee) I perceiue your Worship wants a seruant, and I am the party whose byll 35 it hath pleased you to subscribe, and would be glad to take any paines with a good Maister to please him. O sayes Ma.

White

White art thou he? Marry it is truth, I would give entertainement to a young fellowe that woulde be dilligent and trufty. If it please you sir, (answered the party that meant nothing but deceite) I will finde you suerties for my trueth and good behauiour. Thou sayest well (sayes Ma. White,) but trust me, I like thy lookes well, mee thinkes thou hast a good honest face: but tel me if thou wilt be with me, I must have thee immediatly.

Sir, answered the other, if it please you to give me leave to till the Morning, that I might fetch some few things that I have to shift me withall, I will then attend your Worshyp. Very well (saies Ma. White) thou maist doo so, and till then

farewell.

Heere was now a Maister and a man well met, for the 15 Maister meant to vse his man but to serue his turne for a poynt of cosonage, and the man meant to vse his Maister, til he might finde oportunity, to runne away with his purse or fome other of his apparrell, as he had doone before with many others. But according to appointment, in the Morning 20 trufty Roger came, and was received of hys Maister, who now with his man at hys heeles, frequented his freend Ma. Blacks Chamber for a day or two, and the one of them could not be without the others companie, but maister Black must dyne with maister White at his Chamber, and Ma. White 25 must suppe wyth maister Blacke in his Chamber: but the sequell was, maister White with his servaunt attending of hym, walking into Cheapside, and lighting into my shoppe, demaunded of my feruaunts where their Maister was, they told him that I was within, & that if it pleased him to haue 30 any thing with me, they would call me. Yes marry would I (fayes he,) I pray you call him, for I wold speake with him. One of them telling me that there was a Gentleman in the shoppe that would speake with me, I came downe, and Ma. White first curteously faluting me, began in this fort to dif-35 courfe with me.

Sir, I am a Gentleman, belonging to fuch a Noble man in the North parts of England, and in trueth the Steward of C 3 hys

hys house, and having now some busines for my Lord heere in the Citty, which I am come to dispatch, I must disburse some mony vpon Veluets & other Silkes both for my Lorde and Lady, and I tell you trueth they are such wares as I have little skyl to make choyce of: the matter why I was 5 desirous to speake with you, was but to commit that trust to your selfe which I durst not adventure with your man, and my request is, that you would deale so honestly with me, as I might not be deceived in the choyce of my stuffe, the benefite that you shall winne by your good vsage is, you shall receive ready mony for such wares as I meane at this present to buy, and you shall winne a customer, of whom heereafter you may take greater summes.

I hearing his smooth speeches delivered vnder pretence of honesty, and seeming otherwise, both in the show of his apparrell and the dutiful attendance of his man, that hee had beene (indeede) some Gentleman of reputation and good reconing, desirous so much the rather to win such a customer, I tolde him that I woulde not onely sitte him with as good stuffe as any man in London should shew hym, but also in 20 the price I would vse him with such reason, as in any other place they were able to affoorde him: the which promise (in

very deede) I meant faithfully to performe.

Heere-withall, he drew a paper foorth of his pocket, wherin he began to reade: Item for my Lord, two yardes and a 25 halfe of Blacke veluet, and two yardes and a halfe of Russet veluet, for two payre of Hose, with three yards and a halfe of Black sattine, and as much of Russet for dublyting. Item for my Lady, fourteene yardes of the best three pylde veluet for a loose Gowne, with sixe yards of Peach-coloured satine 30 for her Petticoate. Item for Mistris Iane & Mistris Fraunces, fourteene yards of double turssed Tassita for each of the a Gowne: and twelue yardes of Cornation satine for theyr Petticoates. To coclude he brought me out so many Items, that the prices of the wares amounted to 50, and od pounds, 35 the which when I had sorted him out, he began to find fault that they were too high rated, praying me to sette my lowest price,

price, for that he meant to pay ready money, and therefore if I would not be reasonable, hee must be driven to seeke some other shoppe. I very loath to drive him away, pitcht him a price so reasonable, as in truth I was not able better cheape to affoord them: but hys mind being onely sette vppon cosonage, told me he durst not adventure to gyue so much mony, and thus away he went.

Within an houre after, having sent away his man, which of purpose he had doone, he returned againe, and finding me in my shop, he asked me if I would abate no money in my stuffe: I thinking hee had beene some other where to cheapen, told him I had rated them so reasonably, as I was able to affoord them: and that I was sure, in anie shoppe where he had since beene, he had not found the like wares for

15 the like price.

Nay truelie, (sayde hee) I haue not beene in any other place to cheapen any such stuffe, but yet since I left your house I haue disbursed fortie poundes in other thinges, that I haue sent to my Lodging by my man: but I see you are hard, and yet sith I haue dealt thus farre with you, I will not forsake you, come therefore and cutte me of the parcels. The which accordingly I did, and laying them together, hee desired me to cast the totall summe, the which as before I haue sayd, amounted to sifty and od pounds.

Syr, (fayd hee) I must craue to borrow one of your seruaunts, to helpe me home with thys stuffe, and hee shall bring you your money: I have sent mine owne man about busines, and have no body heere nowe to helpe mee. Very well Syr sayd I, my man shall waite vpon you, or doe any

30 other curtesie.

And thus willing one of my men to take vp the stuffe and follow him, I deliuered him a note what mony he was to receive. Together they goe, til they came to his Chamber in Graties streete, where they found hys man remaining, who (indeed) was somewhat perplexed in hys mind, because there was nothing there of hys Maisters, that was woorth the carrying away, vnlesse he should have taken the sheetes from

from the bedde, but that he deferred, hoping shortly to lyght of a better cheate. But Ma. White demaunded of his man, if Maister Black had not beene there since his comming into the Chamber? who answered him no, neither had hee seene

him all that day.

Maister White with that seemed as though he began to be angry, and willed his man presently to hast to his Chamber, and to will him withall speede, to bring away the two hundred pounds y he was to receive, or at the least to bring one of them with hym immediatly, for that hee was to pay 10 the greatest part of it to one that staied in hys Chamber for it. Away went hys man, and in the meane time Ma. White entertained my man in this manner. He asked him if he had any acquaintance with some Goldsmith in the row that was his freend, and would vse him well in the buying of a Chaine 15 and a payre of Bracelets, and not to exact too much of him for the fashion. My man told hym, that he was well acquainted with two or three that woulde deale very reasonably wyth

hym.

Hee feemed to gyue my man great thanks, and told him, 20 that fo foone as hys man was returned, and that he had payd hym his money, he would himfelfe goe backe with hym and buy them. Hys owne man in thys meane space, was come to Maister Blacks Chamber, whom hee founde within, prouided for the purpose, and was as busie with a Standishe, a 25 great many of papers lying before hym, and a whole fette of Counters in hys hand, as though he had been casting vppe of as huge fummes as the King of Spayne receiveth from the Indyes. He had likewise lying before hym, a great bagge full stuffed, making show as if it had beene a great bagge of 30 mony: the fight whereof gaue the Messenger so good an apetite, that he wished the bagge and hymselfe tenne myles out of the place. But dooing hys Maisters message, maister Black answered hym that he was so full of present busines, that he could not stirre foorth from hys Chamber, but (fayth 35 he, the money thou feest where it lyeth, and if he will come hymselfe, or send some other to tell it and receive it. Why

Syr

Syr (fayde the other) if you please to deliuer me the money, I can carry it. Yea (fayes Maister Black) but your Maister I perceiue is in fuch haste, as hee would be offended if you should stay the telling of it, but goe your wayes to him and 5 tell him what I have faid, and then let him choose whether he will come or fend, the money is heere ready for him, away goes this companion, comforting him with the affured hope, that the carrying of this bagge would have lighted to his lot, which if it had, he ment to have given them all the flyp, or his 10 cunning should have fayled him: but comming to his Maister, hee tolde him that Maister Black was so busie in his Chamber casting vp of accounts, that he could not come, but Syr (faide he) the money I did fee lying upon the Table ready for you, and he would have delyuered it vnto me, but that 15 I feared my long staying in the telling of it might have of-

fended you.

Why then (saide Maister White) goe your waies backe agayne, and I will intreate this good fellow to goe with you, (meaning by my man) to whom he further faid: I pray thee 20 my good friende doe so much as goe with my man, and first pay your felfe according to your note, and helpe him then to tell out the rest, for I thinke his skill will scarce serue him to tell so much money, and drawing out of hys pocket, a payre of gold weights, which he delyuered to my man, he fayd, and 25 I befeech you if any part of his payment be in gold, fee that it be neither crackt nor crased, and that it carries weight, and I pray you in your comming backe againe with my man, doo fo much as call in heere, and I in the mean time will dispatch a little busines, and will by that time be ready to goe with 30 you vnto the Goldsmythes rowe, where I must craue your helpe for the buying of this Chayne and Bracelets. My man fuspecting no manner of deceipt, went a long with hys man: but comming to Maister Blacks Chamber, there was no body to be founde, neyther coulde any of the Seruants 35 of the House, saye whither hee was gone, they sawe him goe foorth but a little before their comming in, but whi-

ther he went they could not tell; whereupon, they both toge-

ther

ther returned backe againe to certifie Maister White: but comming to his Chamber, he was likewife gone, and had carryed away all the same stuffe which my Seruant had left with him: my man begynning but nowe to suspect, when it was too late, immediatly caused the Officers 5 to lay holde of Maister Whites man, and hee was carried directly to the Counter, where hee beganne to curse the time that euer hee mette with fuch a feruice, confessing that hee had coofoned many Maysters before, but nowe hee had met with a Mayster that had a little ouer-reached 10 him. But I vppon my mans returne, came to the places where they had beene lodged, and made what inquiry I coulde, but there was no body that had any manner of knowledge of them, for they came thether not aboue foure or fiue dayes before, making shewe that they were newe 15 come foorth of the Countrey, and that the Carryers were not yet come with theyr Trunckes and apparell, and during the time of theyr aboade, had neuer spent peny in the house, for meate, drinke, nor lodging, which made them protest, it shoulde bee a warning vnto them, what guestes 20 they received againe fo long as they kept house, and heere was all the remedy that I could have, but in the ende I had intelligence of many other like coofonages, they had committed in the Cittie, and the parties were well knowne to bee Maister Veluet breeches & Maister Silke stockings, two 25 counterfeit Gentlemen, that to maintain their brauery, practifed fuch deceipts, and would not flick many times to rob by the high way: for the Varlet comitted to the Counter, whom I could no waies charge with any practife towards mee, I released him freely, but for some other villainies which before 30 he had committed to others, and by himselfe confessed, he was whipped at a Cartes arfe, and after burnt through the eare, and fo commaunded to auoyde the Cittie.

Thus much (as it hath pleased you to commaund me) I have truely fignified, what knowledge I have had of thys 35

Gentleman, Maister Veluet breeches.

S. Peter standing vp, saide: Veluet breeches, thou hast heard

heard what hath beene auouched against thee, and I wonder howe thou durst presume to present thy selfe in this place, knowing the guiltinesse of thine owne conscience: but I see thou art shamelesse, and for such persons as thou art there is an other place prepared, to the which thou must depart, for heere thou mayst not bide: then speaking to Cloth breeches he said, and for thee Cloth breeches, of whom I have heard so good report, thou maist seperat thy selfe from thy two companions, & enter into that blisse, where thou shalt find a happy reward for an honest life; and thus as hee was (by seeming) ready to depart, he espyed where one was comming alone by himselfe, within a little distance, whom S. Peter perceyuing to be a straunger, stayed his comming, and then speaking vnto him, he demaunded of him what he was: who aunswered, that he was a poore Yorkeshyre man, a Brick-layer by his occupation, and one that had truely laboured for his lyuing all the dayes of his life: and (sayde he) our Maister Vicar hath

cupation, and one that had truely laboured for his lyuing all the dayes of his life: and (fayde he) our Maister Vicar hath many times tolde vs, that if we get our lyuings honestly with the sweat of our browes, wee shall goe to heaven, and there we shold have such peace, such quyet, such ioy, such com-

fort, fuch pleasure, and so many God morrowes, I cannot tel what, but (of his words) I have had but an ill-sauoured iourney hether, and what I shall find I cannot tell yet.

S. Peter feeing his simplicitie, sayde, why then my freind 25 come and followe me, and tell me heereafter howe thou likest of the place.

The fellowe hastily replyed, saying: I pray fir let mee first aske you a question, doo vse to let any women come into Heauen amongst you?

30 Why not (faide Sainet Peter) what should make thee to doubt of that?

Why then I pray fir (fayde the other) did there not a woman come hether about a fix weekes a goe, with a bleare eye, a fnottie nose, a blabber lippe, a stincking breath, 35 her voyce was very shrill, and her speech thicke and short.

But how dooft thou call her name (fayde S. Peter) whom

thou hast described, with so many louely tokens?

D 2 Her

Her name (faide the other) is called Margery Sweete, but yet more oftner called by the name of Mannerly Margery.

Why she is in heaven (saide S. Peter) and if thou hast a-

ny thing to fay to her, thou mayft there finde her?

Mary God bleffe me from thence (faide the other) if shee 5 be there, I knowe her fashions too well, to come any more where she is, shee was my wife, and I was married to her fixteene or seuenteene yeeres, and I faith all heauen would be too little for her and mee, and if we should once meete againe, but I am now ridde of her, and I hope I will keepe mee fo, 10 she shal not cast it in my teeth, that I was so far in loue with her to follow her, as she hath many times doone: telling me, that if I had not beene she might have had a Minstrell, that would have got more money in a weeke with his Fiddle,

than I could get in a moneth, with laying of Brick.

S. Peter, with the rest of the company, hearing the mad disposition of the fellowe, departed, leaving behinde him, my felfe, Veluet breeches, and this Brick-layer, who forfooke to goe into heauen because his wife was there; you may easily gesse, Veluet breeches and I were perplexed with forrowe 20 enough, but it was too late nowe for vs to bethinke our felues what we should have doone, and rested onely for vs to determyne what we must doo, & the further wee found our selues bereaued of all possibilitie, to recouer agayne what wee had loft, the neerer approached the horror of our griefe and tor- 25 ment: but we had received our finall sentence, and there was no place longer for vs to stay in, the comfort that was left vs, was to fee if wee could finde meanes to gette into Purgatorie, hoping there to finde fome release, by the prayers and charitable deuotions of good people, and with this reso- 30 lution we set forward of our journey: the Brick-layer ouertaking vs, defired vs to accept of hys company, protefting that he would be a partaker of our fortunes, whatfoeuer did betide vs.

Veluet breeches demaunded of him what was his name: 35 The other tolde him that before he was marryed, they called him Ruffling Richard, but after that he was marryed, they neuer

neuer vsed better addition than playne Dick. Truely friend Richard (saide Veluet breeches) me thinkes you are too plain, and more fimple, to forfake heaven because your wife is there. I pray you fir (faide Richard) were you euer marryed? 5 Yes mary was I, (fayde Veluet breeches) but what of that? I doo not understand you saide Richard) for I demaund of you, if euer you had a wife? And I tell thee I had a wife, (faide Veluet breeches) why dooft thou aske me that? Good Lord (faide Richard) I neuer heard a wife man make fo foo-10 lish an aunswere, for I aske you if you were marryed? and you fay yes: and when I demaunde if euer you had a wife, you aunswere, I mary had I, and what then? And dooft thou call that a foolish aunswere (faide Veluet breeches) what, wouldst thou have mee fay, yes foorsooth? 15 No fir, no, (faide Richard) but I will teach you some wit how to aunswere to such a question; when a man dooth aske you if you have a wife, you must say, yes I thanke God, or, yes I cry God mercy, for so a man shall directly vnderstand you: for if you fay, yes I thanke God, by that we may vnderstand 20 you have a good wife, for the which you are bound to thanke God highly, because fewe men dooth happen of the like: but if your aunswere be, yes I cry God mercy, Sub intelegitur, fuch a wife as mine was, and then you would neuer haue accounted mee simple, to leave heaven to shunne her compa-25 nie, because a man shall live more quietly amongst all the diuelles of hell, than it is possible for him to doo, that lights on fuch a wife.

Hearing these pleasant speeches in this manner deliuered by Richard, I could not choose but smile, notwithstanding my cause of griese: and taking it to bee a benefit of fortune, that had vouchsafed to sauour vs with the company of this merry conceited Brick-layer, whereby to beguile our pensive thoughts with his pleasant discourses, in this our tedious trauell. I questioned with him of his wife, what shee was when hee marryed her, whether a widdowe or a mayde, by

when hee marryed her, whether a widdowe or a mayde, by what meanes hee came acquainted with her, and howe shee became so vnruly. *Richard* in this fort began to discourse.

D 3 When

When I was young (faide he) I was as hanfome a fellowe, as any was in the parish where I was borne: and for my valour, I durst have travelled into any Gentlemans Buttery, when all the Barrels had beene full, without either sworde or dagger about me: for my resolution, if I had 5 once gotten vnder a maydens Chamber windowe, I would neuer haue started, till they had emptied a Camber pot on my heade: for my courage, I durst haue gone into any baudy house, and woulde haue come out agayne as honest a man, as when I went first in: for my credit, 10 I might have runne on the skore for fix pottes, wyth any Alewife that kept house within fine myles where I dwelt: for my quallities euery manner of way, I had the preheminence amongest all the youthes that were in our quarters, for at May-tyde, who was the ring-lea- 15 der for the fetching home of a May-pole, but I: at Midfommer, I was chosen the Sommer Lorde: at euerie Bridall, who must daunce with the Bryde, but Ruffling Richard: Thus for a pleasant life, the Cunstable of the Parish lived not more merrily than I, and for my reputati- 20 on, I was almost as much reverenced as our Church-wardens: but, as the stoutest Stond of Ale, at last is set a tilte, and the fattest Goose comes soonest to the spitte; so, my former fortunes were drawne to their latest date, and my prime of pleasures concluded with mishappe: but oh loue, O 25 cruell loue, that wast the first frunte to my felicities; But who can refift loue, if it be once crept into the bottome of a mans belly? O what a rumbling it makes in his guttes, and howe it bethrobs him about the heart: and fee nowe the fequel of my mishap. I fortuned to be at a Sheepe-shearing, 30 where I met with Margery, she that was my wife, in a fine red petticoate, with damaske vpper bodies, a white apron before her, & vpo her head a broad felt hat, with a braue braunch of rosemary sticking in her bosom, appointed amongst v rest with a payre of sheeres, to helpe sheare Sheep, and I having 35 brought forth a lusty young Ramme, would have laid him in her lap, but she refusing to take him, said vnto mee: now good friend

friend Richard if you loue mee, bring mee none but poulde sheep, for of al things in the world, I cannot away with these horned beaftes. When I heard these milde words, thus gently spoken, & howe kindly she pronounced this sentence (Good 5 friend Richard if you loue me) O heavens (thought I) what a fweete charme is this: then noting her modesty, that shee could not abide the fight of a horned beaft, I began to thinke with my felfe, how happy might that man be accounted, that could light of fuch a wife, & having but a little thus give fcope 10 to mine own affectios, Loue, that had his tinder box ready to firike fire, by this time had fet my fanfie of fuch a flame, that not longer able to endure the heate without a cup of Sack, I faide vnto her; Margery, your manner of phrase hath wonderfully troubled mee, for in your first speeches you call mee 15 your good friend Richard, and then you come in with a doubtfull demaund, in these words, (if you doe loue me) as though I coulde bee your good friende and yet did not loue you: but Margery, fith you have popt mee such a doubfull question, if you and I were alone by our felues, I would poppe you fuch 20 an aunswere, that you should well find that I loued you, and that heereafter you might leave out your if, and fay, Richard affe you loue me.

With these words pretily casting her head at one side, she gaue me such a learing looke, that might as well haue daunted me with dispaire, as given mee comfort & hope of grace: for the one of her eyes was bleard, and seemed as though she wept, the other was a pretty narrowe pinckeny, looking ever as though she smylde, so that in her very countenance at one instant, you might behold pleasure and paine, pitty and rygor, curtesie and crueltie, love and disdayne: and then wyth a sweete voyce, lyke one that were asking an almes,

shee fayde.

Richard, if you loue mee as you faye, your loue shall not bee lost, but men are so crafty nowe a dayes before they are marryed, that they will make a mayde beleeue they loue her, tyll they have gotte vppe her bellie, and then they will not sticke to denye their owne children, and

and that makes women when they be once marryed, to play their husbands such a cast, that they shall not knowe their own children: but if your loue be no such loue Richard, you shal not finde me vnkinde. When I heard the wisdom of the wench, it made my pulses so to beate, that I had thought my 5 codpisse point would have fallen a sunder: but for aunswere I saide.

Margery, your fober speeches so wisely delivered, together with your sweet countenance so louely placed, hath so prevayled with your good friend Richard, that for the better to confyrmation of my loue, receive here this token, as a pledge of my good will: and taking then a two peny peece which I had in my purse, I bowed it and gave it to her, the which when she had receyved, she said.

Well Richard, nowe I doo account you as mine owne, 15 and at night when my Mother is gone to bed, if you will come home, we will there talke farther of this matter: & for your welcome, I will bestowe of you a messe of Creame.

Margery (faide I) looke you keepe your promise, for I wil be there, and because you will be at so much cost with a messe 20 of Creame, I will bring with mee a peny worth of spycecakes: And although we had thus referred ouer farther speeches till our next meeting, yet during the time that wee remayned there in place, O how many amorous glaunces and louing countenances there passed still too and fro betweene 25 vs: but at night my appointed time being come, thether I went, and Margery was at the windowe watching for my comming, who having once espyed mee, she opened the doore, where shee received mee with such a sweete kisse, as if her breath had been lately perfumed for the purpose, whose dain- 30 ty fmell was as fauery, as if it had beene a red herring that had beene newly roafted: her louely lippes pleafant and foft, like a locke of wooll that was but then come out of the feame basket: but should I tel you of all the other loue tricks that passed betweene her and me that night, I might either 35 oppresse your stomack to thinke of it, or otherwise perhaps make you ashamed to heare it: but let thys suffyce, before I departed

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departed, our marriage day was appointed, and Margery in time made her Mother acquainted with the matter, who nothing misliking of her Daughters choyce, gaue her her bleffing, with many other good helps to furnish forth her bridall 5 day, the which when time had drawne to be folemnized, and that the luftie youthes of the Parrish were gathered together to goe with vs to Church, & the young Damosels were flocked on a heape to waite on the Bride, attending her comming foorth. The good old woman her Mother, who had been 10 euer chary of the louely Chickin her daughter, and euen at the very instant when we were ready to goe to Church, shee

was scooling of her with this exhortation. Margery, (fayd she) the day is nowe come for the which you have so much longed after, it is twenty yeeres agoe since 15 you first wished for a Husband, and byr Lady daughter you were then feauenteene or eyghteene yeeres of age, so that at this present you want not aboue two or three of forty: nowe if wit went by yeeres, you are olde enough to be wife, but I being your Mother, besides my many yeeres which might 20 aduaunce my skill, so I have buried foure several husbands, (the heavens be praifed for it) which hath fo much the more confirmed my experience in the dispositions of men, and can the better judge of their naturall inclinations: and by all that I have gathered by mine owne proofe and practife, I 25 haue found it still by tryall, that the fantasies of men, are euermore best sitted with the follies of women. But leauing generalities, and to come to so much as concerneth but thy felfe, that art now to be married to a husband, who in respect of his age thou mightest be his Mother: and couldest thou 30 now but consider, what a comfort it is for an olde Woman, to be louingly embraced by a young man, O daughter daughter, thy mothers mouth begins to water, but with the verie

maiest thou deeme thy selfe, that art so likely to enjoy it. But heere is now a great peece of discretion to be vsed, for as age conceiveth such contentment with the societie of fresh and pleasant youth, so youth will quickly fall a loathing

imagination to thinke of the pleafure, and therefore happie

of

of cold and crooked age, if the parties be not wife to enforce that by arte, that they are otherwife denaied by nature: which is, to shew a youthfull disposed minde, how farre so-euer they be spent in yeeres: for it is a tyred lade that cannot cry weehee, and a forry Mare that cannot wag her taile. 5 Thou art nowe to consider the inequalitie of the yeeres betweene thy selfe and thy husbande, and therefore a little to whet him on to make him to like of thee the better, it shal not be amisse for thee to shew some youthfull conceite, especially being thy bridall day, it is tollerable for thee a little to play so the wanton.

I can tell thee daughter, men are well pleased to see theyr Wives youthfully gyven, and there is nothing y doth more delight them, then to see them wantonly disposed: and thys is the meane to winne your husbands liking, and to drawe 15 him to y appetite, which your many yeeres might quenche: remember therefore what I have told you, and fayle not for your advantage, to shew some youthfull tricke.

Margery making a mannerly curtile, faid: Yes forfooth

Mother, I will remember all that you have told me.

By this time all things being prepared, to Church we went, where the Priest hauing once doone his office, we returned againe, and were accompanied with our neighbours and freendes that went home to dinner with vs: for whom there was prouided Fyrmentie and Minced Pyes, besides 25 other good meate both roste and sodde: the which being all ready, Margery was placed at the vpper end, between two of the most substantial honest men, according to the custome of the Parrish, and my selfe likewise, (as the manner was) did waite that day at the Table, with a napkin hanging on 30 my shoulder.

But O what a comfort it was vnto me, to fee how daintily Margery fedde of euery dish that came neere her, and how lustily she laid about her for her victuales And (thought I) if it be true as some will say, that a good feeding Horse 35 will goe through with his labour, then I warrant if I gyue Margery her meate, I neede not feare to ryde her where I

lyft.

lyst. But Dinner beeing almost at an ende, and the Cakebreade and Cheese ready to be sette on the Table, the good old Woman her Mother, who had likewise beene very busie that day in taking paynes to fill the pottes, and to carrie away emptie dishes, beganne to cheere vppe the companie, bidding them welcome, and telling them she was forry there was no better cheere for them.

Margery presently vpon the sight of her Mother bethought herselfe what she had to doo, and calling now to minde what to lesson she had gyuen her, and howe shee had willed her that day to showe some youthfull tricke, thereby to purchase the fauour of her husband, and picking out at that very instant a fitte opportunity to performe it, she called to her Mother in thys youthfull manner, Munna, vppe and cacke. The to olde Woman hearing her Daughter, sayd: Why how now Margerie? Fie for shame, will you speake bugges wordes? Could you not pretily haue saide: I pray you Mother haue me vppe to picke a Rose, nay nowe I see you play the wanton too much.

Then speaking to the company that sate by, she sayde: I pray you beare with my Daughters childishnes, for I know it is the Firmentie that dooth so much anoy her, for euen from her very infancie, if she had taken any spoone meate, she was still troubled in the bottome of her back-side with a

25 great ventositie.

The neighbours feeing the clenlinesse of the wench, did euer after that call her by the name of Mannerlie Margerie. Thus much to answer your former demaund concerning my wife, whether she were a widdow or a mayd: by the circumstances wherof, you may perceiue she was a maid, although a very old one, and yet not so far spent in yeeres but she was able to play a youthfull trick. And now for the rest y concerneth but the tragedy of mine own mis-fortune: to signify the matter at large, would be tedious for you to heare, & fearefull for me to declare, the very memory wherof were enough to make me tremble, but that I know I am farre enough from her that was the minister of my woe.

E 2. Let

Let thys suffise, within a very sewe Monethes after I was married, Margery beganne to grow ielous, for if shee had once beene thirsty, and that I wanted money to sende to the Ale-house, she wold tell me that I spent away my thrist amongst some other young Queanes: heere began our first 5 falling out, and to set forward the matter, there dwelt at the very next house by me, a Tayler, who had a wife y was sure once a day to measure the breadth of her husbands shoulders

with his owne mete-yard.

Margery and this Taylors wife grew to be acquainted, 10 and amongst other conclusions it was agreed between them, that to preuent diseases, and to preserve them in health, they would every morning next their harts, take a phisical dyet, which was, a full quarte of the quintinsence drawne from an Ale-tub, warmed by the fire, with a grated Nutmeg, halfe 15 a yarde of Black-pudding rosted on a grydyron, a quantitie of falte, with a measure of fine Wheate-flower, first made into paste, and after baked in a loafe of breade: these ingrediences, after they had incorporated altogether, they would afterwards lightly fast till noone. And they founde such a 20 commoditie in vfing this Medicine, that if the Tayler and I had not every morning given them mony to pay for the fimples, it had not beene good for vs to have come that day after in their fights: for the Taylors wife, shee could handle a mete-yard or a cudgel passing nimbly, but Margery had got- 25 ten the practife of all manner of weapons. For besides that the had y vie of her nayles, which the imployed many times about my face, the could likewife handle a payre of bellowes about my pate, a payre of tonges a thwart my shins, a firebrand fometimes should flye at my head, a ladle full of scal- 30 ding liquour other-whiles in my bosome, a three footed stoole, a pot, a candlesticke, or any other thing what soeuer came next her hand, all was one to her: and shee had learned such a dexteritie in the deliuerie, that they should have come whirling about mine eares.

In the ende, deuising with my selfe a remedy for these mischieues, I found the meanes to be made the Cunstable,

hoping

hoping that mine Office woulde have beene a protection to me for a yeere, and that she durst not have striken her Maiesties Officer. But within a day or two, it was my fortune to hit on a pot of strong Ale, which shee had sette vp in a corner for her owne drinking, and I (beeing thirsty) gave it such a soupe, that I left very little behind. The which afterwarde when she came to seeke for, and sounde her store so pittifullie impaired, against my comming home at night, she provided her selfe of a waster, and I was no sooner entred the doores, to but foorth she comes with her cudgell in her hand, and wyth such a terrible countenaunce, that were able to affright anie man that should behold it.

Richard, fayd shee, I had thought you would neuer haue gyuen me occasion to be ielous of you, but now I see you loue a cuppe of strong Ale better then you loue me, and do you not thinke then that I haue great reason to be displeased wyth your vnkindnes towards me, and to beate out that lacke of

loue that dooth make you so lightly to regard me.

Margery, fayd I, take heede what you doo, for you know 20 that I am her Maiesties Officer, and heere I charge you in the Queenes name, that you holde your handes. Maister Cunstable, said she, have you gotten an enchauntment for me, or doo you thinke that your charme shal serue to excuse you? No sir no, for nowe you have deserved double 25 punishment: first, you being an Officer if you offer wrong, your punishment must be so much the more greeuous, and is it not meere iniuftice to take that which was not prouided for you: next, you have deserved to be well punished, for the little reuerence you have vsed in the execution of your office: 30 commaunding me in the Queenes name to hold my handes with your cap on your head, nor vfing any other duty or reuerence: but Maister Cunstable, I will teach you howe to vse an Office, and with that she let flye at my heade, at my shoulders, at my armes, and still she would cry, remember 35 heereafter how you doo your Office, remember your duty to the Queene, remember when you commaund in her Maieflies name, that you put off your cap, and doo it with reue- E_3 rence,

rence: and fuch a number of other remembraunces she gaue mee, as I thinke there was neuer poore Constable before nor fince, so instructed in an office as I was. To tell you of many other like remembrances which at other times shee beflowed on me, I shold but trouble you, but the conclusion is, 5 I am now ridde of her, and they fay that the distaunce between Heauen and Hell is great, but if they were a funder fiue times further then they be, if I might vnderstand where shee were in the one, I woulde neuer rest till I were gotte to the other.

Richard having thus discoursed the whole course of hys life, of his lyking, of his loue, of his pleafure, of his paine, although the subject of the matter were scarce worth the hearing, yet confidering the place whether we were going, it kept a fitte Decorum with the journy we had in hande: and 15 as the tale it felfe was tedious, fo by this time we were ouer passed a long and wearisome way: the best commoditie, the tract was large and spacious, and still discended downe a Hill into the bothome of a Valley, glooming and melancholy to behold, where we might espie one with a Waxe Candle 20 lighted in his hand, who was walking by himselfe, prying and tooting in euery corner, and many times stumbling, and ready to fall where the way was plaine and smooth, that we tooke him to be some blind man that had lost his way, wherat we began to wonder what he shold doo with candle light, 25 that could not fee to guide his fteppes at high noone dayes. But we keeping on our way, were drawn fo neere him that we might perceive he had the vse of his eyes, yet hee never perceived vs, till I faluted him, and bade him God speede. Whereat he fuddainly started, as if he had beene halfe in a 30 fright, but when he had awhile taken the gaze on vs, hee demaunded of vs how farre we had come that way. I tolde him that we were come from Heauen, and that we were going to feeke out the place of Purgatory, defiring hym that if he were acquainted in those quarters, that he would direct 35 vs the ready way to goe thither.

Alas Gentlemen (faid he) that is the place that I have

beene feeking for this long Moneth together, and I thinke there is no corner betweene thys and Hell that I have lefte vnfearched: and were it not for thys holy Candle, whose vertue is able to defend me from the inchauntment of anie spirit or deuill, I would thinke I were Goblyn lead, I have wandered so farre about, evermore hitting into daungerous high wayes that leadeth to Hell, and coulde never finde out

the path that should bring me to Purgatory.

Truly my freend (faid I) if I be not deceived, the lyght to which you carry in your hand (wherin you repose your greatest confidence) is the very meane of your mistaking, & hath so much dimmed your sight and dazeled your eyes, that you cannot see the right way, but makes you thus to run stumbling about, and to wander to and fro, that you your selfe knowes not whether, I would wish you therefore to leave it, and you shall see so much the better howe to direct your steps. What said he, would you have mee leave my holy Candle, marry God and good S. Frauncis blesse me out of that mind:

but if you be of that Religion, I would be forry to tarrie in your company, vnlesse I might induce you by perswasion to thinke more reuerently of holy things.

Truely (fayde I) a lyttle inducement shal suffise to perfwade me to any reasonable matter, and good counsell is euermore to be embraced, but especially at this instant, my

25 case being now as it is.

Why then (faid he) I will tell you a true tale, wherein you shall perceive the wonderfull effect that Holy water hath in working against the deuill, and this it is. There was not not long since, a very proper young woman, that was possessed of a siend, who did so torment & vexe her, that although she would not goe to any Sermons, nor would ever receive the Communion, yet she would sometimes goe to Church, and say her Pater noster in English, and now and then eate sless on Fridaies, and would commit many other heresies, which thys deuill tempted and led her to doe. But you shall see now, there was a good honest holy Priest that was a Seminarie, who beeing in place where thys Woman was, and

and lyking her very well, did begin to pitty her case, and of meere deuotion prickt forward by a sanctified loue, he deuised with himselfe, how he might fully reclaime her to the holie Church: and hauing attempted many practises in vaine, and finding that neyther perswasion, charme, nor any maner of conjuration, was able to remoue the wicked spyrite from her, his last helpe was, hee gaue her a glister of holie Water, the which hee had no sooner put vp into her bodie, but the deuil immediatly forsooke her, that she after became a most Catholique vessell, and was able to reason so prosoundly in that Religion, that but with a little blast of her back side, she wold have made the proudest Protestant that

stoode next her to stop his nose.

An other like miracle I am able to protest of mine owne knowledge, and this is it. There was a Gentleman that 15 is living at this prefent houre, whose name and dwelling place if I list I coulde deliuer: thys Gentleman had beene married full out tenne yeeres, during which space he neuer had iffue, although both himselfe and his wife were very defirous to have chyldren. But it fell out that a holy Father a 20 Iesuite was privily harboured in thys Gentlemans house, who feeing the Gentlewoman to be a lufty and well-lyking wench to beare chyldren, did minister vnto her the holy sacrament of extreme vnction, anoyling her partes of generation with holy oyle, and laying the figne of the croffe ouer 25 her as she lay on her bed, and thys Gentlewoman for three yeeres together that thys holy father lay in her house, had euery yeere a childe: and therfore most happy may those people thinke themselves, that doth retaine and foster such holie guestes nowe in these dangerous tymes, if it were but to 30 haue theyr Wiues hallowed, and to be made holy vessels.

But if I shoulde heere enlarge further, what miracles hath beene wrought, by Holie Water, Holy Candles, Holy Ashes, Holy Oyles, Holie Lambes, and many other holy Reliques, I knowe I shoulde minister so much contentment 35 to your conceite, as the pleasure would make you hartily to

laugh.

Syr fayde I, your myracles are strange, and they may be true, but yet I am of opinion, that for the casting out of diuelles, the name of God is of greater authoritie, than a whole tubbe full of holy water, and for a woman to be made 5 fruitefull in children, is likewise the bleffing of God, and I doo thinke that for the attaynment of any thing that is good, it is rather to be requested in the name of the Creator, then otherwise to be sought for, by the meanes of the creature.

The other aunswered againe, but men that bee of your 10 Religion, are not able to looke into theyr owne errors: for if they were not wilfully blinde, they should finde it in common experience, that hee that will looke to preuaile in hys futes, shall sooner bee dispatched by the mediation of the Saincts, than if he prefumed to preferre his cause to GOD 15 himselfe, and should finde more grace by the meanes of the creature, then if he requested in the name of the Creator: and because I would bee glad to confirme you the better, I

will shewe you you an example. Admitte nowe that your felfe were in a Princes Court, 20 and had some sute, that might not onely concerne your own, but that it stretcheth so farre, as to the advauncement of Gods glory, the profite of the Prince, and the generall benefite of the whole Countrey. You are nowe to preferre thys fute: what, will you goe to the Prince himselfe? (who in 25 this place representeth God) why you shall attende a longe while before you shall come to his presence, and then, although he be milde, affable, gracious, and full of clemencie, and in deede with as many royall vertues as appertayneth to a godly Prince, yet he will turne you of to some one graue 30 Counfailer, or some other great personage that is about him, to looke into your cause and to consider of it: (who in this place dooth represent the holy Saincts, which must bee your Mediator:) Now this Counfayler is so troubled with fo many other affayres, and fuch busines of great impor-

35 tance, that he hath no leyfure in the world to remember you: then must you ply his Secretary, or some other that is neere about him, and you come to him (whith your cappe in your hand

hand and lowe courtesie) and fay, I beseech you Syr remember my sute to your Maister, I haue Iyen long heere, and I haue spent all that I am able to make, and I pray you Syr euen for Christes sake, and for the tender mercy of God, get me an aunswere: (heere you come in the name of the Crea- 5 tor:) Nowe fir, I will (for example fake) make my selfe an aduerse against you, and I will come to the same partie, and fay vnto him, Syr, I vnderstand that such a one (meaning you) hath presented such a sute, and I beseech you Syr, euen as you loue an hundreth Angels, (I come heere in the name 10 of the creature) procure me your Maysters lets against him, and let mee have your affiftance for the stay of his fute: tell mee nowe your owne conscience, will not these visible creatures, gliftering in this mans eyes, worke a quicker expedition, than the bare name of your inuifible Creator but foun- 15 ding in his eares? I am fure you will neuer make question of the matter: for the very presence of an hundreth angels but looking him in the face, will make him to enter into any attempt, yea, and sometimes to abuse his Maister, be he neuer so wise, be he neuer so graue, or be he neuer so honorable, 20 and to make him by his information perhappes to commit fome error.

Syr (faide I) if the matter were worth the reasoning, I could easily aunswere your fond comparisons, but I am not disposed to argue of these matters, & wil therfore let them rest 25 with this conclusion, that God is God, and onely good, & men are men, & no man without fault, nor free from offence. This is very true (answered Richard) for the Vicar of our parish in a Sermon that he made on Midlent Sunday, did speake so much in Latine and sayde, Nemo sine briberi viuit: I re-30 member his words well enough, and brought so much of hys Sermon away.

Richard had no fooner thus added his finatiue conclusion, but we might sodainly heare a loud & pitteous skrike, which by the shrilnes of the noise, seemed to be some womans voice, 35 that was put into some feare, or offered some vyolence: and bending both our eyes and our steppes, towardes the place from

from whence the noice resounded to our eares, we might see a woman hastily comming towards vs, with a trusse or fardle vnder her arme, to whom I saide; Good woman, it seemeth you shold be distressed, although I know not for what cause, but say, what is the matter of this your hasty slight? Alas sir, (said she) as I was trauelling towards hell, with certaine wares that I have heere in my fardle, which I am sent withall to shewe them to Proserpina: fast by heere in the high way, there encountered with mee the most deformed and vyll-fauoured Monster, that ever I did sette myne eyes on, whose ougly countenaunce dyd so as fright mee, that it maketh mee in this sort to retyre, not daring to holde on my course.

I pray thee goodwife (faide I) what wares should they be, 15 that thou art carrying to hell? or doost thou carry them to

fell? or be they fent as a prefent?

Syr fayde shee, I have heere Perewigs of the newe curle, Roules, and other attyres for the heade of the new fashion, Ruffes of the newe sette, newe Cuttes, newe 20 Stitches, newe gardes, newe imbroyders, newe deuysed French Verdingales, newe French bodyes, newe bumbasting, newe bolstering, newe vnderlayings, and twentie newe deuyses more than I have nowe spoken of, which I am carrying to hell amongest the Ladyes and Gentlewomen that are there, who when they lyued in the worlde woulde let slippe no fashion: and I am sure nowe they bee there, would be right glad of the fashions nowe in vse, both to see them and to have them.

In good faith (faid I) they be wares fit for fuch customers, so for from hell they came, and thether they will, there they were first deuised, and therefore fittest to serue that Market.

You are much deceyued fir (fayd she) for I have fashions heere that neuer a Lady nor Gentlewoman that is in hell, ever sawe the like, nor neuer a Curtysan, or any other 35 strumpet that lived in the world, did ever weare the like, such perewigs, curled and firisled by art, such roules of hayre perfumed and platted by proportion, such russes as will aske one F 2 whole

whole day to wash and starch, and an other daies labour but to pinne them in the fashion, that (alas poore women) they are faine to take great paynes to goe to the diuell: but I beseech you Gentlemen, if your occasions be not the greater, doo so much as conduct mee a lytttle part of the way, tyll I bee 5 past this ill sauoured Monster that hath so affright me. We yeelding to her request, had not gone farre but we might discerne a most deformed creature, with a monstrous payre of hornes, growing from the vppermost part of his Fore-head, the tippes whereof turned round into his eyes, and growing to there agayne into his head, had made him starke blinde, that he had no manner of sight; Our Companion so considently perswaded in the vertue of his holy Candle, that he thought no spirite was able to hurt him, stepping forward sayde, In nomine Patris, what art thou that walkest in this fort, thus 15

disturbing the High wayes.

The other aunswered, What I am thou mayst see very well, but howe I came to bee thus perplexed, that thou must vnderstand by a further cyrcumstaunce. Knowe then that I was a Myller, fometimes dwelling in Kent, where I kept a 20 Mill, which (as it feldome tymes wanted water, fo at no time it wanted grift) for that it had the custome of the Countrey, at the least five or fix myles about: It fortuned that a very wealthy and fubstantial Farmer, dwelling two or three miles fro me, sent a sacke of Corne to my Mill by his daugh- 25 ter, which came on horse-backe to have her corne grownd, intending to haue gone backe againe with it before night: which might very well have beene doone, fauing that wee Myllers are tyed to this custome, which is, when any young women dooth fortune thus to come to the Mill, wee vie as 30 well to take toule of themselues, as of their sackes: and I, fixing mine eyes vpon the wench, feeing her to be a very hanfome young Mayden, not aboue nineteene or tweentie yeeres of age, was very loath to let her escape toule-free, and therefore fet downe a plot howe I might acquainte her with our 35 custome: the which I could not by any meanes perfourme, but by making her to stay all night, wherefore I purposly

put

put my Myll out of temper, and spent all the after noone in repayring and trimming of my Myll, and brought her corne to the hopper, whe the day was fo far passed, that it was not possible it could bee grownd off, tyll it were very late in the 5 night; But the young Mayden feeing her Corne vppon the Myll, and defirous to have it home with her, stayed with the better will, the which being once grownd off, notwithstanding the euening was very farre spent, yet shee woulde haue departed home: but I, pretending much good will to her Fato ther, tolde her that if a dogge of her Fathers, were in my house at this time of the night, I would not shutte him forth of the doores for his Maisters sake, much lesse your Fathers daughter: wherefore I will intreate you to stay this night in my house, and you shall have a homely bed, and a cleane 15 paire of sheetes, with such fare as I hope shall content you, and for your horse, hee shall likewise bee turned into a good

pasture fast by my Mill, and in the morning all things shall

be ready for you to depart so soone as you please.

The maiden being well perswaded by my faire speeches, 20 feemed content, and I went to my wife, & tolde her that for as much as my Mill had beene out of temper all the day, I must fit vppe all night to grinde, willing her further to make ready a spare Chamber, for the young Maiden my Neighbours daughter: who had stayed so long for the grinding of her 25 Corne, that it was too late for her to goe home, & willed her, to better our supper with a capon or a dish of chickins, as she her felfe thought good; But my wife, who many times be-

out at her fingers endes the whole drift of my pretence, 30 winking a little with one of her eyes, aunswered smoothly, Husband all shall be doone as you have willed: & although I had beene fufficiently instructed in this olde Axiome, which fayth, Trust not an olde queane, if she once begins to winke: yet by my wives smooth demeanure, I was free from all suf-

fore had taken the true measure of my foote, and had picked

35 picion, and contemplating my selfe in hope of my nights happinesse, I neuer had leysure to bethinke me of any precpts of good counfaile: but my wife having made all things ready,

and that we were called in to fuch cates as shee had prouided, & we likewise having ended our supper, I told the young wench, that when she were disposed to take her rest, my wife should bring her to her Chamber, and wild my wife likewife at her owne leyfure to get her to bed, for that I was to 5 watch all night, that I might bee ready in the morning to serue my customers according to my promise: and thus leauing them twayne together, I departed about my busines; but, my wife that had conceived the very depth of my devise, lodged the mayde in her owne bed, and having but one other 10 Chamber, which I alwayes referued for a friend, and where I thought the mayde should have beene placed, there my wife flily & cunningly lodged her selfe: but I that was more doubtfull of mine own fortune, than suspicious of my wives practife, perceyuing euery body to bee in bedde, did thinke 15 it nowe high time to make tryall of my pretence, and conueying my felfe featly into the Chamber, and then comming to the bedde fide (with a foft and lowe voyce) I beganne to perswade thys young Mayden (as I had thought) that shee shoulde not stande in doubt or feare of him who was come 20 vnto her onely for good will, whom loue and liking had made bolde and hardie, to request some curtesie and kindnesse at her handes, and heere-withall, throwing one of mine armes ouer her, I beganne to hunte after her lyppes, and to have bestowed of her a louing kisse.

But my wife, whose cunning had serued her to traine me into this mistaking, could tell howe to behaue her selfe in the rest, to confirme mee in mine error: for, although she would render me no manner of speeches, whereby I might discouer her by her voice, yet in the rest of her demeanure she 30 counterfeited so cunningly, such a kind of maydenly nycitie, that a man would rather haue taken her for some young ignorant puny, that had neuer dealt the cardes, than for an old beaten gamster, that knewe well enough howe to make the stakes: for although shee knewe what it was whereat I le-35 uelled, and was most desirous to haue had me hit the marke, yet she delayed mee off with a counterfeit kinde of striuing,

and

and would neuer yeelde, tyll feeming for want of breath shee was not able to resist, and then panting (as it were to take the ayre) shee seemed to bee ouercome (as it were) by force: and I, that was not better able to discerne of Cats in the 5 darke, but that they were all gray, feasted my selfe with a fulsome repast, in steede of a dayntie dish, for blinde conceit had gyuen mee an appetite to feede on that dyet, which if I had feene, woulde quickly have cloyed my stomacke: but having well fatif-fied my felfe, and that I was now 10 at leyfure to looke into mine owne fortune, and confidering what perrill might enfue for a little pleasure past, if the wench shoulde fortune to complayne of that one nights lodging fortie weekes after, the which would not onely redounde to my great shame and reproch, but lyke 15 enough to fall out to my wracke and vtter vndooing, her Father beeing an able and wealthye man, that woulde not let to feeke reuenge; to preuent these and other mischiefes, I did bethinke me of this deuise.

I had a lusty young fellowe to my man, called Rafe, 20 about the age of foure or fiue and twentie yeeres, whom I had left to fee to my Myll nowe in myne absence; this Companion I knewe woulde be pat for my purpose, and one I was fure that woulde neuer flynch, to spende hys fix pence at his drinke or his drabbe: and calling to minde 25 an olde prefident, drawne from one of myne owne coate, I meane, from the Miller that had taught hys man to counterfeit so long, tyll hee was hanged vp in hys Maysters roome, I determined with my felfe likewise, to make mine own man the instrument that should stand betweene mee and 30 all future mischiefes.

Heere-uppon fayning an occasion to goe looke to my Mill, and taking my leave for the instant with a kisse, I came where my man was, and questioning with him of many idle matters, amongst the rest I demaunded of him

35 how he lyked of the young mayden?

Mary Mayster (sayde hee) I doo lyke so well of her, that I woulde thinke it a most happie turne for men of

our occupation, if all the diuelles of hell were fuch as she is, because there are very few Millers that doo vse to goe to heauen: and then if hell were no worse surnished than with fuch, I wold not care if I did take my journey thether-wards

to morrowe fo foone as it were day.

Why Rafe (fayd I) thou knowest where she lyeth in the guest Chamber, & what wilt thou give me if I turne thee in to her, and give thee instruction howe thou shalt behave thy selfe, that shee shall not refuse to render courtesie for thy kindnesse. I coulde scarce make an ende of my wordes, but 10 my man, as if he had flayed too long, haftily aunswered.

Maister, I have nothing in the world, but a sheepe and a Lambe, which (as you knowe) doo goe in the Mill close, perfourme your words, and I will give you them both, and that

with all my heart.

I rejoycing in mine owne conceit, to thinke howe kindly I had coofoned my man, would needes clappe handes wyth him for the better confirmance of the bargaine: the which beeing thus agreede on betweene vs, I wylled him to goe into the Chamber, and without any feare to get to the maydes 20 bed, and there to vie no manner of speeches, but to worke all

his enterprises, but onely by dumbe perswasions. But will you fee howe cunning was heere caught in his owne nette: I had thought to have coofoned my man, but he kist me kindly for my acquaintance, and (according as I had 25 directed him) into the Chamber he went, where my wife in the darke could no better discerne betweene me and my man, than I was able before to judge betweene her and the maid: but he, vfing no wordes because I had so instructed him, and she forbearing to speake for marring her owne Market, but 30 thus in sylence betweene them, I was coofoned on both fides, for they agreede so well together, that I thinke they were loath to part, for my man feemed to like fo well of hys entertaynment, that the day was ready to breake, before hee would leave his game. My wife on the other fide, in condi- 35 tion like vnto those, that when they have sped well, cannot keepe their owne counfaile: shee gat her selfe vp immediatly

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after,

after, and then calling the young maiden, who had slept quietly all night, knowing nothing how matters had passed amongst vs, and the day light being by this time a little cleared vp, between my man and I we sette her vpon her horse, with her sacke of meale vnder her: and she gyuing me harty thanks for my curtesse, departed thus towards her Fathers house.

Heere beganne Rafe and I againe to recreate our selues with the remembrance of our nights pleafure, I smild in my 10 fleeue to think how I had cofoned my man: my man laughed to remember how he had deceived the maide: and beeing thus together in the midst of our sports, in comes my Wife, feeming by her countenaunce to be as merry as the best, and taking me by the hand, she prayed me to goe in with her, I 15 thinking she had somewhat to say, comming into the house, shee had prouided for my breakefast a warme caudle daintilie made, with a couple of Chickins rofted, and stoode hote vppon the Table. I that fawe this extraordinary diet, meruailing what conceite was gotte into her head: asked her 20 what myght be the cause of thys her suddaine kindnesse: she that lookt me in the face as wantonly as if she had come lately where the frolike had runne rounde about the house, aunfwered me thus.

Byr lady husband you have taken paynes to night, and 25 I perceive you are not yet so farre over spent, but that you are worth the cherishing: you have deserved a better breakfast then thys: for he that hath watcht as you have doone all night, had neede be well comforted in the morning. These suspicious words thus delivered by my wife, brought mee 30 well neere into the fitte of an Ague: but beeing desirous to be better satisfied in her meaning, I said.

And what paynes haue I taken thys night, more then I haue doone at other tymes? I haue watched manie a night before thys, when I found no fuch kindnes at your hande in

35 the morning.

Husband (said shee) how so euer you have watched in times past, I know not, but this nights labor hath deserved

no

no lesse then a comfortable restorative, and in steed of Potato rootes, I have made you a warme Caudle next your hart: be not ashamed man of that you have doone, for it was I that supplyed the young wenches place to night in the guest Chamber, and it was you that came thether and playde the 5 propper man. But I thinke husband, how soeuer you have ouer-reached me before, I have cryed quittance with you to night. And nowe comfort your selfe whilst your meate is warme, plucke vppe your stomake and fall to your breakfast.

I that was not able with patience to endure her words, bursting out in choller, saide. The deuill take thee and thy breakefast, for thou hast given me a breakfast and a dynner to, that will stick in my stomacke whilst I live. And going my way in this chase into my Myll, where my man perceiuing my suddaine passion, demaunded of me the cause of my vnquietnes? Vilaine (said I) thy selfe art the cause why I am thus perplexed, for thou hast lyne with my Wise: I Maister (sayd he) you are much deceived, and I protest I would not doo you so much wrong, for so much corne as wold 20 fill the Hopper.

Thou hast doone it (sayd I) for she hath confest it vnto me, and it was she that did lye to night in the outer Chamber in the young wenches roome. That was more then I knew of (sayd my man,) but sith it was so, I will have my Sheepe 25 and my Lambe againe, for the bargaine was betweene vs, that you should have sent me in to the Maide, and I vppon thys condition, promised you my Sheepe & my Lambe, but sith you have broke your promise, by Saint Anne I will not stand to my bargaine.

These speeches of thys varlet, dyd more vexe and grieue me then before: and yet I wist not how I should be reuenged, nor better remedy could I deuise, but after I had freated my fill, I commaunded the knaue to take his sheepe and his Lambe, and presently to gette him out of my seruice, nor 35 neuer after to come within my doores, nor into any other place in my wives company.

Thys

Thys gaule of griefe continually fretting and gnawing in my conscience, myght have beene thought a sufficient punishment though Rigore hymselfe had pronounced the sentence: but my terrestiall penaunce not enough to appease the angry Goddes, they have decreed thys finall conclusion: that as I was the author of myne owne harmes by myne owne blindnesse, so mine owne hornes shall for evermore so grow in myne owne light, that beeing not able to discerne which way or how to direct my steppes, I should wander in this solitary place, bereft of all other societie, and so to continue world without end.

The Woman that stoode by all thys whyle, and had gyuen attentiue eare to thys discourse, striken as it shold seeme into some remorse, vpon what consideration I know not, but

15 thus she sayd.

Alas poore Myller, if thy punishment be so greeuous for a small escape ignorantly committed, woe is mee to be-thinke what shall betide to an infinite number y are dailie infected with thys common calamitie, this horne-plague I meane, the generall sicknes of our time: a maladie that hath so much infected both Citty, Towne, and Country, that there are few places free, which are not spiced heere & there, with this forked generation: amongst the which there be a number of honest Gentlemen, some of them my verie good freends and customers, whose hornes doth hang so much in theyr own lights, that they are well contented to suffer theyr wives to pranke themselves vp in every new fashion, whereby to set theselves to sale, & to make open show how lightly they are disposed: but the horne-plague shal never depart his

But alas for pitty, what shall become of a number of kind harted Wittoles, that will not onely be contented to hoode-winke themselues from theyr Wiues adulteries, but also to become Bawdes and Brokers, yea and some-

35 times will not sticke to keepe the doores, whilst their Wiues shall bee within, playing the harlots wyth theyr custo-

mers.

G 2

Blame

Blame not me that am touched with some remorse, for these be the people that I doe liue by, for what shoulde I doe with my new-fangled trashe, if there were not as lycencious Women to buy them? And why should they deck themselues so Curtisan-like to the view of the world, but to mass nifest their vnchast appetites, that they might be the rather desired of men.

The woman had no fooner ended these speeches, but she as suddainly burst out into such a vehement laughter, that for the time, she was not able to deliuer a word: but in the 10 end, with much a doe, recouring the vse of her tongue, shee sayd: Now truely I cannot chuse but laugh to think of my husbande, howe ill sauoured he will looke with such a payre of spectakles hanging ouer hys browes as thys Myller hath gotte.

Wee that stoode by, and were more mindfull to see an end of our trauailes then disposed to prolong the time in idlenes: I asked of the Miller if he did knowe where abouts the place of Purgatory was, or if he could give vs any direction which way we myght gette thither, he answered thus.

My good Freendes, what soeuer you be, you shall vn-derstande, that thirtie yeeres and odde are already ouer passed sith I first frequented these infernall pathes, in which meane space, though I have not been able to discerne mine owne footesteppes, yet by the reports of sundry travailers 25 that hath passed these waies, I have learned thus much con-

cerning Purgatory.

The persons that were the first founders of the place, were not persectly sighted, but like as the Owle which cannot abide the light of the Sunne, slyeth euermore in ŷ night, 30 so those men, not able to endure that excellent brightnesse which is the onely true light to euery persect vnderstanding, framing all theyr platformes in obscuritie and darknesse, amongst other idle inuentions, woulde needes take vppon them the building of Purgatorie. The place where they 35 had seated it, was so obscured with such sogges and silthy mystes, that no man that had the persect vse of hys wittes,

was

both from Heauen and Hell.

was euer able to find the fituation. The foundation wheron it was layd, was lyes and foolish fantasies, the rest of the vpper buildings, was dreames and doting deuises. All the whole edifice, was of such lyght and rotten stuffe, that after 5 they had beene two or three hundred yeeres patching & peecing it together, a poore filly Swaine naked and thred bare, called Trueth, blowing against the building but with a little blast of breath, the gale was of such force against it, that the whole matter & substance, together with the Founders, Pa-10 trons, Proctors, Protectors & Defenders, were al blown immediatly into Hell: fo that who soeuer he be that seeketh for Purgatory, there hee shall be fure to finde it: and for these thirty yeeres that I have wandred in these places, there neuer came any to enquire after it but madde men and fooles.

Why then fayd I (to our companion that stoode by with hys Candle,) I perceive you had some reason to bring light with you when you came to feeke Purgatory, fith the place is fo darke and fo daintie to be found. But nowe you know affuredly where you may finde it, your Candle will stand

20 you in some steede to light you to Hell.

Hee breaking out into fundry passions, some-times raging against the Myller, saying that he was but an ignorant and a lying Heretique: then calling to his memory the long tyme he had fpent in feeking of Purgatory, hee beganne as 25 vehemently to rayle against the Pope, and as bitterly to exclaime against hys Iesuites and Seminaries, that had promifed to instruct hym in the high way to Heauen, and directlie fent him the verie next way to Hell.

In these angry fittes hee blewe out hys Candle, and 30 throwing it from him, was contented to hold vs companie

in the rest of our journy.

Whilst we were wandering thus together, we had not paced the distance of a furlong, but we might heare the founde of a Horne, which was blowne with fuch shrilnesse, 35 that the Eccho redoubled againe in the ayre, and looking about vs, we might perceive a farre of, where one came ryding post all in black as fast as his horse was able to fling, and

Greenes newes

and with his quicke speede immediatly passing by vs, wee knewe him by his balde pate and his Coule hanging at hys backe, that he was a fatte squaddy Monke, that had beene well fedde in some Cloyster, who with his great haste was suddainly out of our sights: and we had not trauailed farre, 5 but we might see Hell gates standing wide open, with aboundaunce of people that were slocking out of all quarters, preasing in as thicke, as if in the Terme time they were thronging to Westminster Hall. And presently we might behold a cleere auoydance in the gates, and a multitude coming foorth, with Belles, with Banners, with Torches, with Crosses and with Copes, in a very solemne manner of

Procession, singing Salue festa dies.

Wee standing still in a gaze as they passed by, I demanded of one of the traine what myght be the meaning? Who 15 answered mee that there was a Post newly come fro Rome, with newes that the Popes Legate was hard at hand, with some great Embassage: and that solemnitie was onely to entertaine him, to shew what reuerence they dyd beare to hys Maister. The thronge that followed was so exceeding, 20 that we were mightily shouldered to and fro amongst the company, but Veluet breeches & I, determining to fee what would follow, we tooke the one the other by the hand, folowing in the prease til at length this holy Legate was seene where he was coming, fo that it was not long but they met. 25 The Legate y was a chuffe-headed Cardinall with a paire of fulfome cheekes, stretched out like one that were playing on a bag-pipe, alighted from his palfry, and prefenting himselfe before Lucifer, who was there in place to receive him, he fel down vpon his knees, praying the Prince of darknesse, to 30 bestow his fatherly benediction vpon the Popes holines, hys chiefe Vicar & Vizegerent vpon earth: the only man that he was especially beholding vnto, who sent him from time to time whole Millions of foules for the increasing of his kingdome: from whom I am fent with matters of much impor- 35 tance to be heere confidered of, and whose person in this place I doo now represent.

Lucifer

both from Heauen and Hell.

Lucifer lyfting vp one of hys pawes, and waging it ouer the Legates head, fayd: That bleffing that God gaue vnto Caine for the killing of hys Brother Abel, lyght vppon thy Maister and hys successours for euer. Then taking hym by

5 the arme, he fayd.

Stand vppe, for confidering whose Embassadour thou art, it were an embacing to thine estate, if thou shouldest shew any signe of humility or lowlines. Thou doost heere represent the person of Antechrist, whose pride coulde neuer to yet surrender it selfe to any manner of obedience, I will not therefore in this place y any thing be imbeiseled, that might derogate the least dignity from that Chayre of pestilence, I

meane the holy Sea of Rome.

Then was there brought foorth a most stately Chayre, 15 which was prepared of purpose, in which Chayre Ambition and Pryde having placed the Cardinall, olde Ignorance and young Obstinacy, (the one blind, the other froward,) taking it vpon theyr shoulders, as if the Pope himselfe were carried in his Pontificalibus, and then a rich & sumptuous Canapie 20 beeing fpred ouer him, and borne by foure supporters, which were, Idolatry, Hipocriste, Hereste, and Blasphemy, thus in this pompious manner (beeing placed in the Procession next Lucifer himselfe) they returned to Hell, whose gates I noted to be so large and spacious, that a Princes Army though 25 it were martialed in any proportion of battayle, with Fyllets, Troupes and Winges, might well have marched in without any manner of dyforder. And although the inner roomes did fo exceede in greatnes, that it passeth humaine reason to conceive of them aright, yet he that should behold 30 the aboundance of people that reforte thether daily, and the infinite number that are there to be seene flocking in euerie corner therof, wold more wonder to thinke what place could io containe them.

Beeing thus come into Hell, they went to the Chappel, 35 where Pope Hildebrand the first founder of Trasubstantiation was ready to say Masse, the which beeing ended, Sathan (who can in no wife endure the deferring of matters that

Greenes newes

that dooth concerne his owne estate, went immediatly into the Conuocation house, where calling about him a most abhominable company of Popes, Cardinals, Bishops, Pryors, Abbots, and other Clergy men, that hath beene for this foure or five hundred yeeres, still of his privile Counsaile, the 5 Legate was willed to deliuer the effect of his message, who making hys entrance with a breefe Oration, tending to the commendation of the Popes carefulnesse, how many stratagemes he had endeuoured against Englande, Fraunce, and Ireland, for the better establishing of the Kingdome of Ante- 10 christ in those places: and he was nowe to let them vnderstand, first for England. Where he had thought to have accomplished hys purposes by the meanes of his Iesuites and Seminaries, whom he fent thether in flockes, to withdrawe the people from theyr obedience, to styrre them to sedition, 15 rebellion and vprore: to practife treasons against theyr Soueraigne, yea and to vndertake many horrible enterprifes against the person of the Prince, whom God hath stil mightilie defended, not onely preserving her from their traiterous practifes, but likewise hath so reuealed the conspiracies of 20 the practifers, that from time to time they have been still apprehended, and so fent to Tyburne, to say In manus tuas.

Beeing therefore exempted from all manner of hope to find any good successe in these former platformes, his Holinesse craueth your Hellish instructions, what course hee 25

might now follow for the recouery of that Country.

For Fraunce, it would aske a long time heere to be dyf-coursed, what trecheries, what treasons, what mischieues, what murthers, and what massacres hys Holines hath there from time to time effected: and although hee hath now stir-30 red vppe hys vassaile the King of Spayne, who hath from the dignitie of a magnificent Prince, surrendred himselfe to become a slaue to the Pope, to come and goe as he appoints him, and to be the executor of all his damnable deuises, and hath hys forces nowe in that Countrey, in the assistance of 35 Traytors and Rebels, against theyr naturall Prince and lawfull King: yet hys Holines can have no assured hope

to

both from Heauen and Hell.

to suppresse the light of the Gospell retayned amongst them, or vtterly to subuert the professors of it, without some diuellish deuise, platted and contriued from this infernall pitte of hell.

Nowe lastly for *Ireland*, if that Countrey might still bee continued in that state as it now standeth, there were many hopes to be expected, not necessary in this place to bee openly reuealed: for although the naturall people of that Countrey, (yea euen in the most barbarous places) be of theselues very

to zealously inclyned, & without all peraduenture, would easily be drawn to the true knowledge and worship of God, if they had such a Minister amongst them, as might instruct them, as well in wholesome doctrine, as in good example of life: but the Pope hath so well prouided for the place, that the whole

Priests, yea, and Fryers, that have recourse into Dublyne it selfe, and these doo keepe such a continual and daylie buzing in the poore peoples eares, that they are not onely ledde from all duety and obedience of theyr Prince, but also drawne

long by heapes into hell: for through the whole Countrey, the people are so considently perswaded in the doctryne of Antechrist, that they thinke our Lord will doo nothing without the mediation of our Lady, of Mary, or of Iohn. And to

feeketh to vpholde the glory of God, there is ten for that one that feeketh to vpholde the glory of God, there is ten for that one that feeketh to vpholde the kingdome of Antechrift; neyther is it to be doubted, but that there be some fewe, which both in preaching and lyuing sheweth all sinceritie and godlynesse of

30 life: but there be a number of others, which neither fay nor doo, neither preach well, nor liue well. Some other there be that now and then will get vp into a Pulpit, and there they will spend an howre, chyding against the Pope in the course of their speaking, and they are no sooner come down but they

35 will defie God himselfe halfe a yeere after, in the manner of theyr lyuing: and this example of theyr vngodly behauiour, is no little corrasiue to weake consciences, that doo beholde their

Greenes newes

their wickednes. For what is it for a Clergy man, be he Parson, be he Vicar, be he Deacon, be he Archdeacon, be he By-Thop, be he Archbishop, or let him be what he wil, if he be one that will rather endeuour himselfe to sleece his slocke than to feed it, that hath not so much care of the children of God, com- 5 mitted to his charge, which he fuffereth dayly to perish: as he hath to prouyde marriages for his own children, in theyr very infancie, and when they are vnder age: that dooth builde houses, and purchase rents by corruption, extortion, and briberie, that dooth eat and drinke the finnes of the igno- 10 rant people dayly at his table: that will not admit of a pardon from the Pope, yet dares not bee without fiue or fix feuerall pardons from the Prince, for treason, for murther, for theft, for robbery, for conspyracy, for confederacy, for rasyng, for forging, for extortion, for bryberie, and for many other 15 filthy matters, shamefull to be spoken off, were it not before this haggish assembly: and what though from a base and beggerly parentage, he could shewe himselfe lofty in minde, lofty in lookes, and lofty in all the rest of his demeanures: Would not fuch a Prelate be fit for the deuilles Chappell? 20 The Legat had no sooner made an end of these latter words, but in comes Dick Tarlton, apparrelled like a Clowne, and finging this peece of an olde fong.

If this be trewe as true it is,

Ladie Ladie:

God send her life may mend the misse,

Most deere Ladie.

This fuddaine iest brought the whole company into such a vehement laughter, that not able agayne to make them keepe silence, for that present tyme they were faine to breake 30 vppe: and as Veluet breeches and I were walking arme in arme through the prease, wee fortuned to meete with Commens, one that some sewe yeeres agoe, had beene a Sargeant in London, who no sooner espyed Veluet breeches, but hee got vp a fire-brand, wherewith he gaue hym such a stroake 35 ouer the shoulders, that the coales slewe all about the place. Veluet breeches againe vppe with his sist, and gaue hym such

[58]

25

both from Heauen and Hell.

fuch a blowe vnder the eare, that had lyke to have stryken him ouer: with this they closed, and beganne to pommell one an other as fast as theyr sists coulde walke, the company that stoode by beganne to cry Clubbes, Clubbes, Clubbes,

5 and immediatly they came rushing in about vs, wyth flesh-hookes, with Coale rakes, wyth Fyre-forckes, and with such other furniture, as a man would have thought were all come out of a Kytchin: and wyth some little a-doe they parted the fray, and the partyes were presently by

the Officers brought before Lucifer, and I beeing a ftraunger in the place, was lykewise carryed with them for company: where Commens beeing charged to bee the first Authour of the broyle, in his owne excuse rendred this reason.

I was (fayde hee) fometimes an Officer vnder the Sheriffes of London, and beeing feede by a Towns man to arrest Veluet breeches, I was brought vnto him where hee was in a Barbers shoppe, sitting with a Bason before hym, full of sopie water, wherewith the Barber was rubbing hys

hym thus in trymming, thought of curtesie to forbeare the dooing of myne offyce, tyll the *Barbar* had ended his businesse, and setting my selfe downe without any worde speaking, *Veluet breeches* by chaunce espying my Mace

comming, fuddaynelie (before I was a-ware of hym) threwe all the water so directly in my face, that the Sope getting into myne eyes, did so smart and grieue mee, that for my life I was not able to holde them o-

30 pen: But whilft I stoode starke blinde for the tyme, wyping and rubbing of myne eyes, Veluet breeches packt himselfe out of the doores, that I could neuer after come where hee was tyll thys present, and I vowed then to bee reuenged of him the next time that euer I sawe him:

35 and I am now to craue the priviledge of the place, for it is directly against our auncient custome, that there should be any quarrels or controversies taken vp heere, or that there should

H 2

bee

Greenes newes

be found any peace-makers in hell: with this the whole multitude began to growe into an vprore, and they fell immediatlie to taking of parts: and first there stood vp in Commens behalfe, a great number of cruell creditors, crafty Lawyers, Merchants, Retaylers, Scriueners, Broakers, and a most 5 shamefull and filthy company of vsurers.

Veluet breeches on the other side, he wanted no friends, for there were a great many that knew him: and those that tooke hys part, were swashers, swearers, whore-maisters,

theeues, robbers, ruffyans, roysters, and coosoners.

As they were growing into this commotion amongst themselues, there were gathered together an infinite number of Cony-catchers, which came to take part with Veluet breeches: who feeing me to stand by, they beganne to growe into confused exclamations against mee, some saide, let vs 15 teare the villaine in peeces, that hath written fo many bookes against vs: other sayde, let vs fley of his skinne, and cut the the flesh from his bones in small gobbets, that hath so manifested the secrets of our trade and profession, to the world: fome other fayde, let vs cut the tongue out of his head, and 20 put out both his eyes, that hath beene an enemie to the arte of Cony-catching, and hath so shamefully inveyed against the practifes; Then came there foorth an infinite number of women Cony-catchers, and they sware they would geld me, for marring theyr Market, and hindering them of theyr taking. 25 Thus was I threatned on all fides, euery man stoode wondering at mee, no man to take my part: But Lucifer perceiuing the cause of their griefes, by the manner of their clamors, & willing to appeale their passions with any punishment, commaunded mee presently to bee thrust foorth of hell 30 gates and charging me so to remaine a restlesse spirite, wandering through the world, and neuer after to make any returne agayne to that place.

Thus for the writing of bookes, I was first banished from Heauen for my ouer much parciallitie, and nowe exiled from 35 hell, for my too much plainnesse: I remayne now (as I haue tolde you) a walking spyrite, restlesse and remedilesse to wan-

der

both from Heauen and Hell.

der through the world; I woulde therefore wish my friends to beware howe they walke late a nights, for I will bee the maddest Gobline, that euer vsed to walke in the Mooneshine. For I will sometimes bee a spirite of the Buttery, 5 and I will so intoxicate their heades, that doo frequent the places of my haunt, that at night they shall not be able to find the way to their beds, tyll they have taken their first sleepe on the flore.

Sometimes I will bee Robin Goodfellowe, and will to meete with a wanton wench in a darke corner, and let her bleffe and croffe her felfe as well as the can, I will put her in fuch a bodily feare, that for fortie weekes after, shee shall thinke that young bugges are crawling in her belly.

Sometimes I will shew such dreames & vysions to wo-15 men whilft they be fleeping, that they shall make theyr Hus-

bands Cuckolds when they are waking.

Sometimes I will trans-forme my selfe into divers shapes, and will walke through all trades, all Sciences, and all occupations, and some I will infect with the spirite of A-

20 uarice, some with miserie, some with deceipt and all manner of subtiltie, that they shall leave no practise vnsought for, whereby to rake and gather pelfe, to leave to theyr heyres, that the olde Prouerbe might bee verified: Happy are those

children, whose Fathers goe to the deuill.

In the Tearme time, I will be in Westminster hall amongst the Lawyers, whome I will make so capable in the guyllityes of the Lawe, that they shall coosen twentie Clyents of theyr coyne, before they will bring one to an ende of hys cause; and will not sticke nowe and than to get me vp 30 to the bench, amongst the Iudges themselues, to let them tast a little of the sweetnesse of corruption.

You may easily thinke that I meane to frequent the Court, where I will oppose my selfe a professed enemie against Good defart, and let him come thether and pleade his 35 many yeeres feruice in the warres: let him shew his wounds and maymes, gotten in his Countreys defence: let him fignifie his time and patrimony spent in his Princes quarrell,

H 3

Greenes newes

to maintayne himselfe, and to releeve such as were about him: or let him pretend many other indeuours, in the service of hys Soueraigne, that might worthily mooue a fauourable consideration, if there shall bee sounde one that will affoorde him a fauourable looke, or a comfortable speech, there shall be 5 two for that one to requite him with disdainfull counter-

nance, and churlish checkes.

I will not tell all, howe grieuous I will be to Largesse and Lyberallitie, nor how miserable I will shew my selfe in shutting vp of the Princes bountie: Let this suffice, hee that 10 shall become a Suter at the Court, without golde in his purse to see a brybing Groome, let him looke for small grace in his sutes: for I will strike such a deafenesse into the eares of the Clarkes and Secretaries, appertaying to great men, that when a penylesse Suter comes vnto them with cap and 15 curtesse, they shal not vnderstand what the soole meaneth, nor be able to heare one worde that he speaketh, without a bribe. I might marre all if I should tell all, how I ment to bestirre my selfe amongst the Courtiers of all sorts, but they say, Enough is as good as a Feast.

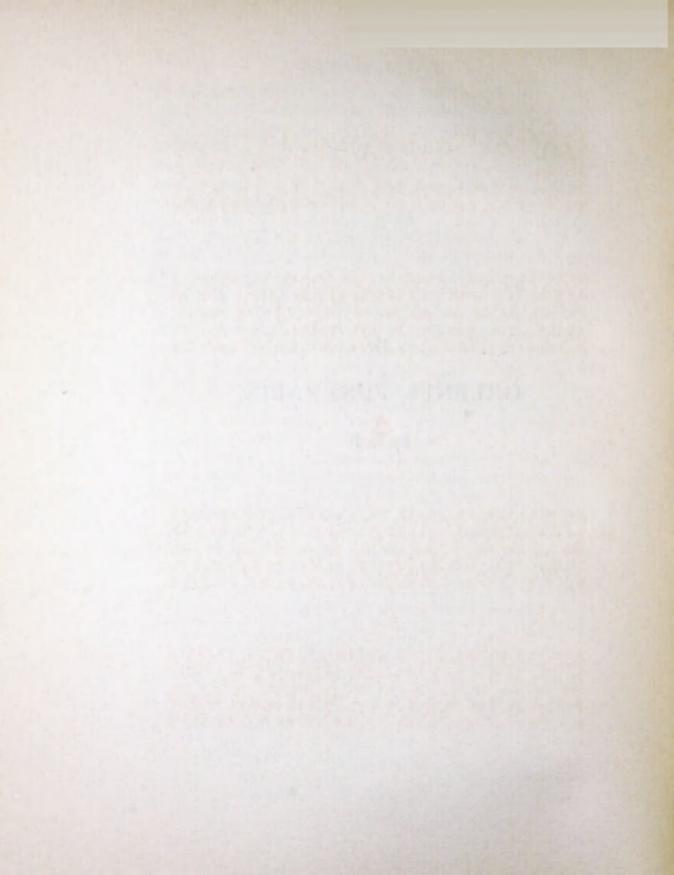
The Cleargy must not thinke to escape me scotsree, for I must needes be acquainted with these double beneficed men, and wil many times converse with such as be Non residents; and sometimes I will get vp into the Pulpit and preach, but you may easily discerne mee, for my text shall be, Doo as I 25 say, but not as I doo; My conclusion is, Good friends take heede how you come in those places where I walke, for you may perceive I am bent vpon mischiefe, I can but therefore wish you to looke to your selves: and so fare you well.

FINIS.

IL.

GREENES FUNERALLS.

By R. B.



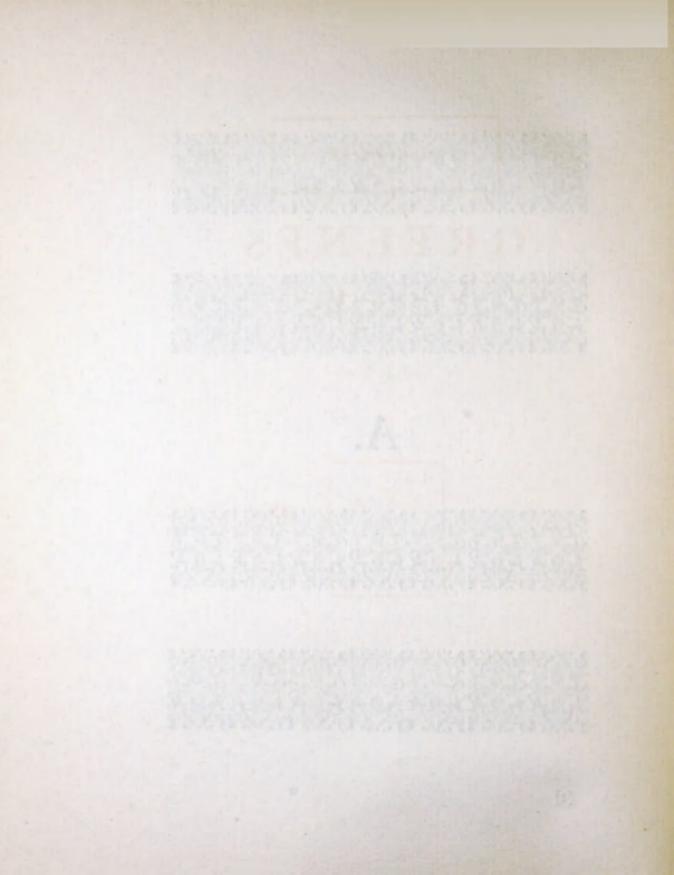




A.







[Ornament with 'I D.']

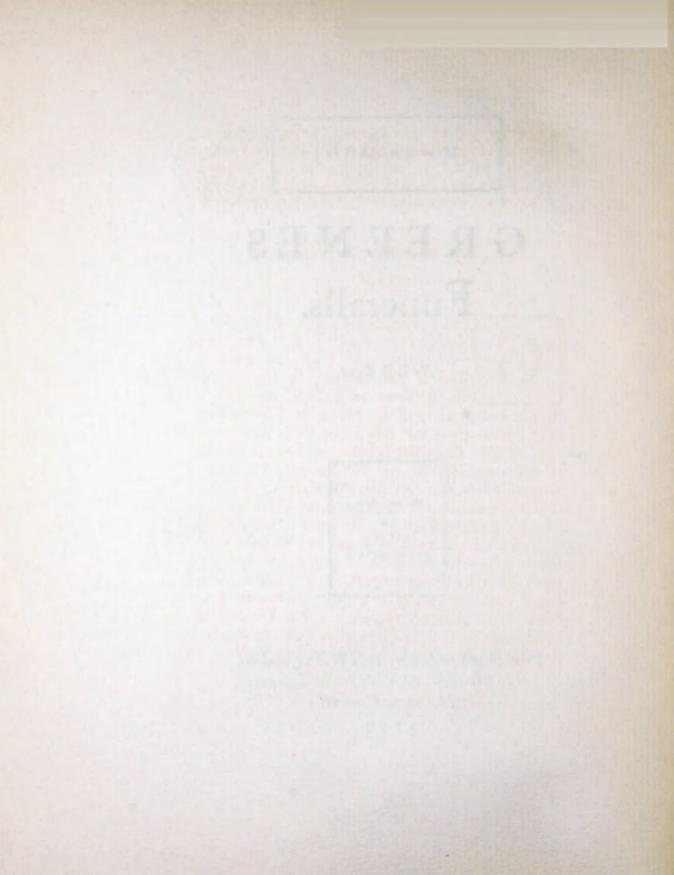
GREENES Funeralls.

By R B. Gent.

[Danter's device, with 'AVT NVNC AVT NVNQVAM.']

Printed at London by Iohn Danter, and are to be fold at his House in Hosier-lane nere Holbourne-Conduit.

1594.





To the Gentlemen Readers Health.

Entle Reader, I once readd of a King, that divided the day into three parts; the First hee spent in Prayer, the Second in hearing of his Subjects causes, and the last in delight and pleasure of his body: So (Gentle Reader) I hope thou wilt spend one daies pleasure in 10 reading this Pamphlet, wherin no curious theame is writt vppon; but certaine Poemes, Entituled: Greenes Funeralls. VVhich contrarie to the Authours expectation I have nowe published, for it was his private study at idle times. Gentlemen, 15 fine wits are quickned with one cup of pure wine, where many woulde make them dull; And this fmall Pamphlet may recreate your mindes, when large Volumes would but cloy and weary you: Now if the Authors paines, and the Printers la-20 bour may be acceptable to thee (Gentle Reader) the one hath his hyer, and the other his defire.

Yours in all curtesie, Iohn Danter.



Sonnet, I.

Hy should my Pen presume to write his praise,
And hee in perfect mould of Vertue framde?
Why should my Muse sing of his happie daies,
And he the marke, at which Dame Nature framde?
Why rather should I not such vertues show,
That such pure golde from drosse each man may know?
But cease my Muse, why dost thou take in hand so great a Taske:
Which to performe a greater wit, than Mercuries would aske?
For indgement loue, for Learning deepe, he still Apollo seemde:
Tor floent Tongue, for eloquence, men Mercury him deemde.
For curtesse suppose him Guy, or Guyons somewhat lesse:
His life and manners though I would, I cannot halfe expresse.
Nor Mouth, nor Minde, nor Muse can halfe declare,
His Life, his Loue, his Laude, so excellent they were.

A 4

Sonnet, II.





Sonnet, II.

Fortune, hates not, them that hate her:
Fortune, loues not, them that loue her:
Fortune, would, and cannot rate her:
Fortune, shall, and must remove her.
And though fickle Fortune smile:
It is but for a little while.

5

Greene loude Fortune foolish Man,
Foolish man, why loude he so?
And her foolish race he ran,
Foolish race thats run with woe.
Who then (Alas) was lesse misused?
Now (Alas) is more abused?

10

But let Fowles and foolish fellowes,
Barke and byte their belly fill:
It is not spightfull Enuies bellowes,
That can kindle fire still.
No Booke pleases all that come:
None so bad but pleases some.

15

Sonnet, III.



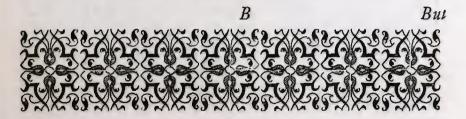


Sonnet. III.

YEE dainty Damsels of Dianes Traine,
That long to dally, with your loued Lords:
And you braue Gallant, high resolved Lords.
That love to gaze, vpon your stately Starrs.
He he is dead, that kild you with distaine:
And often fedde your friendy hopes againe.

He he is dead, that wrote of your delights:
That wrote of Ladies, and of Parramours:
Of budding beautie, and hir branched leaues,
10 Of sweet content in royall Nupitalls.
He he is dead, that kild you with distaine:
And often fed your friendly hopes againe.

His gadding Muse, although it ran of loue, Yet did hee sweetly morralize, his songs: 15 Ne euer gaue the looser cause to laugh, Ne men of Iudgment, for to be offended.



[K] [73]



But as he often kild them with disdaine: So did he often feede their hopes againe.

And though he often told of things to come,
In love more like a Prophet than a Poet:
Yet did he wisely interlace the one,
With Sages sayings, ever mixt among.
And though he often fedde their pleasing paine:
Yet did he often kill them with disdaine.

Wherefore yee dainty Damsels of renowne,
That long to dallie, with your loued Lords:
And you braue Gallant, worthy noble Lords,
That loue to dandle in your Ladies lapps.
Come hither come, and lend your mouths to Fame:
That meanes to sound, his never dying name.

Sonnet. IIII.

5

10





Sonnet, IIII.

Come from the Muses well Minerua, Come and bring a Coronet: To crowne his head, that doth deserve, A greater gift than Colinet.

5 Come from Bacchus bowre Silenus, Come and bring fome good-ale grout: For to sprinckle Vino-plenus: All his foolish face about.

Come thou hither sweete Amyntas

10 All on a silver sounding Swanne:

Come and teach this fond A-mint-Asse,

Leave the game as hee began.

Come thou hither my friend so pretty,
All riding on a Hobby-Horse:

15 Either make thy selfe more witty:
Or againe renew thy force:

{ Come and decke his browes with baies, }
That deserves immortall praise.

B 2

Sonnet, V.





Sonnet. V.

AMend thy stile who can: who can amend thy stile?	
For sweet conceit.	
Alas the while,	
That ever any such, as thou shouldst die,	
By fortunes guile,	5
Amids thy meate.	
Pardon (Oh pardon) me that cannot shew,	
My zealous loue.	
Yet shalt thou proue,	
That I will ever write in thy behove:	10
Gainst any dare,	
With thee compare.	
It is not Hodge-poke nor his fellow deare,	
That I doe feare:	
As shall appeare.	15
But him alone that is the Muses owne,	
And eke my friend,	
Whome to the end,	
My muse must ever honor and adore:	







Doe what I can.
To praise the man,
It is impossible for me that am,
So far behinde.
5 Yet is my minde,
As forward as the best, if wit so would
With will agree.
But since I see,
It will not bee:
And pardon craue.
Which if I have,
My Fortunes greater than my former fall:

I must confesse.

But if he other wife esteeme of me,
Than as a friend or one that honors thee:
Then is my labor lost, my care consumde.
Because I hate the hope, that so presumde

 B_3

Sonnet, VI.





Sonnet, VI.

OF Tel-tales tell my muse, of such as love to lie: Of such as vse, for to abuse, their friends and no cause why. Of such and none but such, 5 My pen shall write his pleasure: And them at large I meane to tuch, When I have time and leasure. My rime is rude, what then? Yet will it serve the turne: IO To notefie such wicked men, As doe deserve to burne. As doe deserve to burne said I? Nay worse: that ought to feele, The raging force and crueltie: 15 Of old Ixions wheele. But least I should this mourning Muse retaine: Ile fall into an other kinde of vaine.

Sonnet, VII





Sonnet, VII.

Though perchance it seeme to some but a toy and a trifle, Seeme to some in vaine, to bestowe but a part of an houre, In penning Poemes: in hon'ring him with a Poeme. Yet I appeale to the pen of pierelesse Poet Amyntas, (ta

5 Matchles Amintas minde, to the minde of Matchles Amin-Sweete bonny Phillis loue, to the loue of sweete bonny Phillis, Whether pen, or minde, or loue, of Phillis Amintas Loue, or minde, or pen, of pen-loue-minder Amintas: Thinke of him (perhaps) as some doe thinke of Amintas:

Oh that I might be loude, of Phillis louer: Amintas.

Oh that I might be thought, as I thinke of Phillis: Amintas.

Oh that I might be iudgde as I iudge of Phillis: Amintas:

Then would I neuer care for fuch base beggarly make-bookes

That in ueigh against the dead, like deadly maligners.

If What if he were a man, as bad or worse than a Hel-hound?

As shall I thinke that he was as bad or worse than a Hel-hound?

Yet it ill became sweete miudes to haunt in Auernus:

Ill became such Cutes, to barke at a poore silly carcas

Some had cause to mone, and mourne, & murmur against him:

20 Others none at all, yet none at all, so against him.

For my selfe I wish, that none had written against him

But such men which had inst cause than written against him.

Sonnet. VIII.





Sonnet, VIII.

MVse give place to my mone, and mone give place to my musing:

One for an others cause, and one for cause of an other.

First to behold him dead: last to behold him alive. (taines, And thou Shepheards Swaine, that keepes thy sheepe by the moun-(Mountaines) of Sicily, and sweet Arcadian Iland,

Oh Melibæus: leave, Oh leave any more to be mourning.

For though his Art bee dead, yet shall it ever abide:

Ever abide, to the end: light, as a light to the rest.

Rest that have wrot of love: and the delights of a lover.

But by the sweete consent, of Pan and Marsias ofspringe.

Sweet consent of a Saint so sweet, of a Fowle an a foule one Greenes but a foolish man: and such as him doe defend.

Yet will I ever write both to defend and offend:

For to defend his friends, and to offend his foes.

Sonnet, IX.

Б

IO





Sonnet, IX.

GReene, is the pleasing Obiest of an eie: (him. Greene, pleased the eies of all that lookt uppon Greene, is the ground of euerie Painters die: Greene, gaue the ground, to all that wrote upon him. 5 Nay more the men, that so Eclipst his fame: Purloynde his Plumes, can they deny the same?

Ah could my Muse, old Maltaes Poet passe, (If any Muse could passe, old Maltaes Poet)
Then should his name be set in shining brasse, to In shining brasse for all the world to show it.
That little children, not as yet begotten
Might royallize his same when he is rotten.

But since my Muse begins to vaile hir wings, And slutter low vpon the lowly Earth: 15 As one that sugred Sonnets, seldome singes,

Except



[81]



Except the sound of sadnes, more than mirth, To tell the worth of such a worthy man: Ile leave it vnto those, that better can.

Now may thy soule againe, goe take his rest (His pleasant rest) in those eternall ioyes Where burning Tapers, still attend the blest To light, and lighten them from all annoyes. Goe then poore Poet, live and never die: Ever, yet neverbut in miserie.

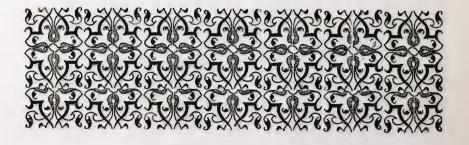
And as I came into the world vnknowne,
Moude with compassion, of thy piteous plaint:
So will I now againe, my selfe goe mone,
That durst presume, thy praise in verse to paint.
And if the Muses pardon, mine so weake:
I passe not of a pin, what others speake.

Sonnet. X.

5

10

15





Sonnet, X.

A Catalogue of certaine of his Bookes.

CAmilla for the first and second part.

The Card of Fancie, and his Tullies loue.

His Nunquam Sera, and his Nightingale.

His Spanish Masquerado, and his Change.

His Menaphon, and Metamorphosis.

His Orpharion, and the Denmarke King.

His Censure, and his Loues Tritameron.

His Disputation, and the Death of him,

That makes all England shed so many teares:

10 And many more that I have never seene

May witnes well unto the world his wit,

Had he so well, as well applied it.

C 2

Sonnet, XI.

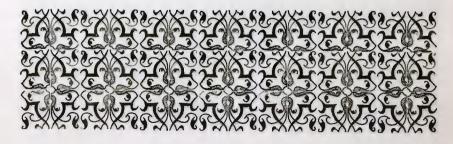


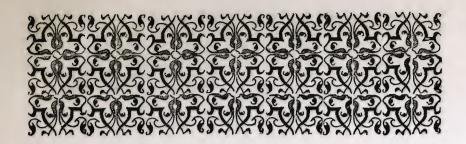


Sonnet, XI.

WHen my loathed life, had lost the light of Olimpus, And descended downe, to the cursed caues of Auernus, Neuer more had I thought, of men to be inlie molested, But now alas, I see my hope is vaine: My pleasure turned, to eternall paine. 5 For such foolish men, as I had never abused: Neuer abused alas, yet alas, had euer abused: Euer abused so, because so never abused. Not onely seeke to quench my kindled glorie, But also for to marre my vertues Storie. IO And though my life were lewd, Oh how it grieues me to thinke it. Lewd as a life might be, from all good counsell abandond: And given over up, to the out cast sense of a sinner. Yet might my end, have moud them to remorce: And not to reake their teene, on fillie corfe. 15

Sonnet, XII.





Sonnet, XII.

Father of Heauen, for thy mercies meekenes, And thy sweete Sonnes sake, Christ the redeemer, Pardon, Oh pardon, sinfull offender, Lord I beseech him.

And though his age, here on earth were a loathsome Pudddle of filthynes, inly poluted,

VVith all abuse, that can be deuised,

Yet was his ending;

Ending a myrrour, of a man molefted, to One ouer-whelmed with his iniquities, And to be holpen alone by the *Iefus*Sauiour of all men.

 C_3

Sonnet. XIII.





Sonnet, XIII.

A sweete Praier to the Trinitie by R. S and vsed of R. G. at the instant of his death.

TRinity bleffed, Deitie coequall,	
Vnitie facred, God one eke in effence,	
Yeeld to thy feruant pittifully calling	
Mercifull hearing.	
Vertuous liuing, did I long relinguish,	5
Thy will and precpts miferably fcorning,	
Graunt to me, finfull patient, repenting,	
Healthfull amendment.	
Bleffed I judge him, that in heart is healed,	
Curfed I know him, that in health is harmed.	10
Thy Phisicke therefore to me, wretch vnhappie,	
Send my Redeemer.	
Glorie to God the Father, and his onelie Sonne,	
The Protector of vs Earthie sinners	
Thy facred Spirit, laborours refreshing,	Is
Still be renowmed Amon	~.

Sonnet, XIIII.





Sonnet, XIIII.

An other Poeme, borrowed of the same learned Gentleman R. S. R. G. speaketh.

Lord, my dryrie foes, why doe they multiply?

Me for to ruinate, fundry be couetous.

Him shildes not the Godhead, sundry say to my Soule.

Th'art Lord most vigilant, wholy my succorer,

Th'art my most valiant victorie glorious.
To our Lord lowd I cried: from holy place heard he me.
In graue new buried, scarce haue I slumbred:
I rose to life againe, through God his holines.

VVith compasse labouring, my body for to catch.
Rife Lord omnipotent, helpe me, my champion,
Lord, thy deare radiant, righteous equitie,
Hath squisse all my foes, falsely me ransaking.

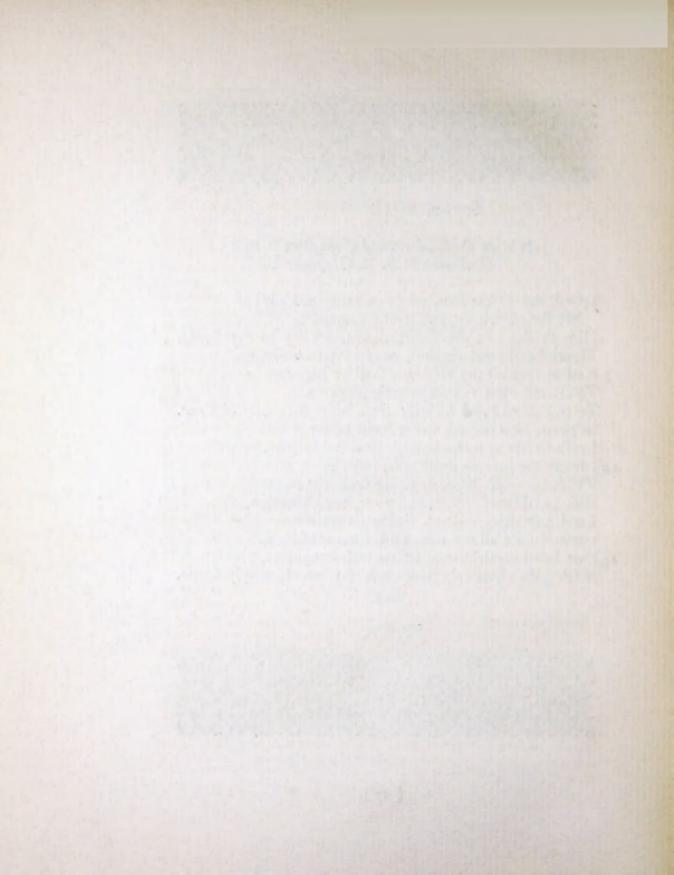
Our Lord participiates, fafetie with happines:

With gifts, heauenly Godhead, thy people amply blesse.

Amen.

FINIS.





NOTES.

P. 3. 1. Gregory Coolle There are several references to this person in the State Papers, where his name appears as Cole. In 1586 he is mentioned, in a list of Irish claimants, as having a debt to collect for 'my Lady of Sussex' (see Calendar of State Papers, Irish, 1586-8, p. 126, also pp. 65, 104, 145). Later he became implicated in the affairs of Sir John Perrot, lord deputy of Ireland. In 1588 Perrot had been summoned to London to answer certain accusations touching his loyalty, which included charges of having spoken disrespectfully of the Queen. Among those to whom he had made disloyal remarks was Cole, who had, however, kept them to himself, and not reported them as he should have done. For this we can hardly blame him, seeing that Perrot had threatened to break his neck if he gave him away, and was just the man to carry out his threat. Nevertheless, Cole was imprisoned, and he was still a prisoner at Dublin in October, 1592 (Cal. of S. P., Irish, 1592-6, In the following month, however, his release was ordered by the Privy Council (Acts of the P. C., New Ser., xxiii. 312). In a paper of the year 1596, giving a survey of the English Pale, Cole appears as 'of Clonard'. I have not been able to find any later allusion to him. From the reference in 11. 4-5 to his 'chaste Chamber at Dublyne', it looks as if the writer of Greene's News did not know of his release.

2. Clonarde] On the Boyne, Upper Moyfenrath, co. Meath.

- 26-8. Spirits . . . Spoken wnto Cf. Hamlet, 1. i. 45. It may be remarked that the notion seems to belong rather to popular than to learned demonology.
- 5. I. five-finger] the five of trumps in the game called 'maw'; cf. N.E.D. and Middleton's Family of Love, v. iii. 141.
- 2. a tale... of an Asses The tale seems to refer to the conduct of Sir John Perrot as lord deputy of Ireland. He was notorious for his arrogance and assumption of autocratic power. The words 'that rauished a Church of her lyuings', in Il. 35-6, may allude to his proposal to turn St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin into a court-house, and apply its revenues to the erection of colleges. See D. N. B.
- 7. 21. Quoth I to your freend I suppose that More's Dialogue of the Veneration and Worship of Images is meant. This is in the form of a report, sent by More to a friend of his, of a conversation between More and a young man who had come to him with a letter of introduction from the friend. Hence expressions such as 'quod your friend', 'said your friend', &c., are of frequent occurrence. The Utopia and the Supplication of Souls need no remark.

Notes.

- 9. 7. Veluet breeches . . . Cloth breeches] It is perhaps unnecessary to remark that these are the chief characters of Greene's Quip for an Upstart Courtier, one of the most popular of his tracts.
- 12. 15-16.] Perhaps suggested by Cornelius Agrippa, De Vanitate Scientiarum, cap. 81, where the author remarks on the correspondence between the 'cruell and greedy beastes' depicted in coats of arms and the way their bearers attained to their position.
- 15. 19-20. for the holding up of S. Peters chayre] Alluding probably to the extremely rapid succession of Popes at this time, there being four from 1590 to 1592.
- 18. 37, &c. King Henry the thyrd] The story is told, with some slight variations, of William II by William of Malmesbury and the chroniclers who followed him (Holinshed, ed. 1807-8, ii. 46; Stow, ed. 1615, p. 128). The servant did not return and say that there were no more expensive hose to be got. He brought the king a cheaper pair than the first, and told him that they cost a mark, 'and then was he well satisfied, and said; Yea marie, these are more fit for a king to weare, and so drew them vpon his legs.'
- 21. 20. trusty Roger] Apparently a jesting name for a servant, perhaps especially an unfaithful one, cf. Nashe's Have with you to Saffron-Walden, sig. D 3.
- 24. 14. in the row Goldsmith's Row was on the south side of Cheapside. For a number of notices of it, see Harrison's Description of England, ed. Furnivall, pt. ii. pp. 4*-6*.
- 25. 19. by] The use of 'by' is strange, but probably not a misprint. Such phrases as 'saying it by my man', i.e. referring to, or meaning, my man, are quite usual.
- 27. 22. of his words] I cannot explain the precise force of this phrase. Can it be a sort of abbreviated form of some such expression as 'surreverence of his words', and mean, 'with all respect to what he said'?
- 31. 4-5. (Good...me)] The Elizabethans often used parentheses as we now use quotation marks; cf. l. 16 below, also Club Law, ed. Moore Smith, l. 505, and Whitgift's Defence of the Answer, 1574, p. 714—to take two examples at random.
- 44. 19, &c. Knowe then that I was a Myller, &c.] The story of the miller which follows is of considerable antiquity. The earliest form of it known to me is to be found in the Roman du Meunier d'Arleux by the troubadour poet Enguerrand d'Oisi (ed. by Francisque Michel, Paris, 1833). Here the story is on the whole very much as it is given here, but the episode of the breakfast does not occur, and more is made of the quarrel between the miller and his man as to whether the promised reward should be paid or not. The story is also to be found in the Facetiae of Poggio, under the title of Quinque Ova. Here it is very briefly told, but the breakfast is an important part of it, while nothing is said about the quarrel between the miller and his man. The idea is used in a quite different setting in the ninth story of the

Cent nouvelles Nouvelles, to Wright's note on which I owe my knowledge of Enguerrard d'Oisi's version.

47. 4-5. Cats in the darke . . . all gray] Proverbial. Quoted in N. E. D. from J. Heywood's Prov. and Epigr. (1562), When all candels be out, all

cats be grey.'

- 26-7. the Miller ... roome A story from the Chronicles, relating to the western rebellion of 1549: At the same time, & neere the same place Bodmin dwelled a miller that had beene a great dooer in that rebellion, for whom also sir Anthonie Kingston sought: but the miller being thereof warned, called a good tall fellow that he had to his seruant, and said vnto him: I have businesse to go from home, if anie therefore come to aske for me, saie thou art the owner of the mill and the man for whome they shall so aske, and that thou hast kept this mill for the space of three yeares, but in no wise name me. The seruant promised his maister so to doo. And shortlie after came sir Anthonie Kingston to the millers house, and calling for the miller, the servant came forth, and answered that he was the miller. How long, quoth sir Anthonie, hast thou kept this mill? he answered three yeares. Well then said he, come on, thou must go with me, and caused his men to laie hands on him, and to bring him to the next tree, saieng to him; Thou hast beene a busie knaue, and therefore here shalt thou hang. Then cried the fellow out, and said that he was not the miller, but the millers man. Well then, said sir Anthonie, thou art a false knaue to be in two tales, therefore said he, hang him vp: and so incontinentlie hanged he was in deed. After he was dead, one that was present, told sir Anthonie; Suerlie sir this was but the millers man. What then said he, could he euer haue doone his maister better service than to hang for him.' (Holinshed, Chron., ed. 1807-8, iii. 925-6.)
- 48. 16. kindly]? well; cf. A Countercuffe to Martin Iunior, sig. A 3, 'play thou the knaue kindly as thou hast begun.'

58. 10-11. eat and drinke the sinnes of the ignorant people] Perhaps alluding to the saying of sumners that they live upon the sins of the people; cf. Nashe's Pierce Penilesse (Works, ed. McKerrow, i. 216. 16-17 and note).

14. rafyng] I cannot explain this word. It might be 'resing', i.e. assault, but the only instances of the word given in N. E. D. date from 1387, and the verb 'rese' is not recorded to occur after 1495. Can it mean making a 'rising' or rebellion?

20. deuilles Chappell] The phrase perhaps comes from the saying where Christ hath his Church, the Devil will have his Chapel', cf. Nashe,

Works, ii. 40. 3-4 and note.

24-7] Collier (Bibliographical Account, ii. 255) notes that the 'old song' referred to was probably Elderton's ballad, The Panges of Love and Lovers Fittes, printed by Richard Lant in 1559, as a broadside, which contains these lines:—

'If this be true, as trewe it was,
Lady, Lady,
Why should not I serve you, alas,
My deare Lady?'

It was reprinted by Collier in his Old Ballads (Percy Society, vol. i), pp. 25-8. The refrain 'Lady, ladie . . . My deare Lady' also occurs in alternate verses of a song in the interlude of Horestes, ed. Brandl in Quellen, pp. 513-15, and again, as Mr. Crawford has pointed out to me, in a poem in C. Robinson's Handful of Pleasant Delights, ed. Arber, pp. 25-6.

- 61. 13. bugges] i.e. ? goblins. The use of the verb 'crawling' suggests that the author may have known the word in the sense of 'insect,' but the earliest example of any such meaning in N. E. D. dates from 1622.
- 71. 11. Guy, or Guyons fomewhat leffe The line is rather obscure, and I am not sure who are meant by Guy and Guyon. The usual 'Guy' is of course Guy of Warwick, but he does not seem to have been specially famed for courtesy. Can Guyon be Gawain? Guy and Gawain are mentioned together by Skelton twice (see Works, ed. Dyce, i. 70, 119), and the collocation of names may have been customary.
- 79. 4. pierelesse Poet Amyntas Presumably Thomas Watson, the author of the Latin poem Amyntas, is meant, and not Abraham Fraunce, the translator of that poem into English, though the fact that the author seems here to be imitating Fraunce's English hexameters may render the point a little uncertain.
- 81. 6. Purloynde his Plumes] Possibly, but not certainly, an allusion to the well-known passage in Greene's Groatsworth of Wit about the 'vpstart Crow beautified with our feathers', which is taken to be an attack on Shakespeare.

7. old Maltaes Poet I do not know who is meant.

15. sugred Sonnets Evidence that the phrase was a current one, and that Meres did not mean to attribute any special excellence to Shakespeare's sonnets by calling them 'sugred'.

83. 3. Numquam Sera] i.e. Greene's Never too late, 1590.

3. Nightingale] i.e. Philomela, the Lady Fitzwater's Nightingale, 1592.

4. Change i.e. The Royal Exchange, 1590.

5. Metamorphosis] i.e. Alcida, Greene's Metamorphosis, 1617 (? first ed. 1588).

6. Denmarke King i.e. Arbasto, the Anatomy of Fortune, 1594.

7. Censure i.e. Euphues his Censure to Philantus, 1587.

8. Disputation i.e. A Disputation between a He cony-catcher and a She cony-catcher, 1592.

8-9. Death ... teares] i.e. A Maiden's Dream, upon the death of ...

Sir Christopher Hatton, 1591.

- 86. 1, &c.] From the Psalms appended to Richard Stanyhurst's translation of the first four books of the *Aeneid* (ed. Arber, p. 133). Correctly quoted save that 'Sonne' in l. 13 should stand at the beginning of l. 14, and 'Thy' in l. 15 is in Arber's text 'Thee'.
- 87. 1, &c.] From the Psalms as above, ed. Arber, pp. 130-1. 1. 5, shal be stil harbored; 1. 8, fast for scarce; 1. 13, cleere for deare; 1. 15, participats.

INDEX.

The words are given in modern spelling, except when there is some reason for keeping the old.

addition, title, 29. 1.
altogether, a mess of, 4. 22-3.
Amyntas, 75. 9; 79. 4.
and if, 28. 9.
appointed with, provided with, 30. 34.
as, that, 25. 3.
aver, ? justify (oneself), 11. 5.

baseles manes, 10. 3.
be, aux. vb. (for 'have'), 'was followed,'
10. 12.
beaten (gamester), experienced, 46. 34.
blabber (lip), swollen, 27. 34.
bob, blow, 9. 13.
bodies, bodice, bodices, 30. 32; 43. 21.
bothome, bottom, 38. 19.
bowed, bent, 32. 13.
bravery, fine dress, 26. 26.
bugs (see note), 61. 13: '— words,'
35. 16.
bumbasting, padding, 43. 22.
buttery, spirit of the, 61. 4.
by, ? (see note), 25. 19.

cack, void excrement, 35. 14. cakebread, 35. 1-2. cast, trick, 32. 2. cate, food, dainty, 46. 1. cats, in the dark all are grey, 47. 4-5. cheapen, 23. 12, 17. Cheapside, 19. 25; 20. 6. cheat, booty, 20. 33; 24. 2. children, 'happy are those children whose father goes to the devil,' 61. 23-4. chuff-headed, fat-headed, 54. 26. clap hands (on a bargain), 48. 17-18. Clonard, 3. 2. Cloth-breeches, 9. 7, &c. clubs, cry, 59. 4. codpisse point, 32. 6.

Cole, see Coolle. Colinet, 75. 4. Commens, 58. 32-3. commodity, advantage, 38. 17. conge, salutation, 13. 35. constrained (courage), 3. 28. cony-catchers, terms used by, 17. 18-19. Coolle, Gregory, 3. 1. cooson, -age, -ers, cozen &c., 26. 9, 23; 60. 10. corrasive, 57. 37. cossoning, cozening, 17. 34. Counter, a prison, 26. 7, 28. crased, cracked (slightly), 25. 26. cut, dog, 79. 18. cut, new, fashion, 43. 19.

dainty (to be found), difficult, 53. 18.

Danter, John, 67. 4; 69. 22.

dazzle, intr., 13. 18: trans., 39. 12.

decorum, to keep a, 38. 15.

delay off, postpone, 46. 37.

denay, deny, 4. 4; 18. 34; 34. 2.

devil's chapel, 58. 20.

doubleting, ? material for doublets, 22.

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